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THE BANK OF KUWAIT & THE MIDDLE EAST

Kuwait not facing a recession, says Sheikh Salem

KUWAIT, April 14. (Agencies): The governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait was quoted today as saying he expected the gross domestic product (GDP) of the oil sector to be 60 per cent higher in 1989.

In an interview with a Kuwaiti daily newspaper the governor Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah said: "We cannot say that Kuwait is facing a recession."

"It is expected that the oil sector GDP will register an annual increase around 60 per cent

in 1989," he said.

"Forecasts show that the value added of the oil sector is expected to increase from KD1,719 million (\$5.86 billion) in 1988 to KD2,772 million (about \$9.45 billion) in 1989," he said.

The non-oil sector's GDP was estimated to rise only around 3.6 per cent, he added.

Sheikh Salem also categorically denied rumours that the government has withdrawn

funds from Kuwait's reserves to cover the budget deficit, including public borrowing.

The governor went on to elucidate by stating that so far, there is no reason for the government to increase the maximum ceiling of public borrowing to exceed the KD13 billion level. He added that so far, the bonds issued totalled KD2.3 billion. The official further denied that the issue of treasury bills and bonds had any negative influence on the activities in the Stock Market.

Sheikh Salem stressed that it is not pragmatic to use as an analogy the extraordinary boom in Kuwait's economy during the early decades of the '80s as a basis to evaluate the present performance of the local economy as that period has its inflationary characteristics.

The governor said: "It should be always borne in mind that revenues resulting from the oil sector greatly influence the gross

domestic product (GDP) which is reflected by the fluctuation in oil prices." The GDP after witnessing a drop of 8.6 and 13.8 per cent respectively in 1985 and 1986, achieved an annual growth rate of 16.5 per cent in 1987 as a result of the hike in oil prices, the official commented.

Sheikh Salem said that in 1987, the domestic product from the oil sector increased by 32.9 per cent and the GDP of the non-oil products achieved a remarkable increase in

1986 and 1987.

Speaking on the issue of the rate of exchange of the Kuwaiti dinar against the "basket of currencies", Sheikh Salem confirmed a drop of 2.1 per cent in 1988 compared to the previous year.

On the performance of the Kuwaiti banks last year, the governor described them as good and in this respect disclosed that the planned bank merger will take place before the end of this year.

Jerusalem move It was mistake, admits Dole

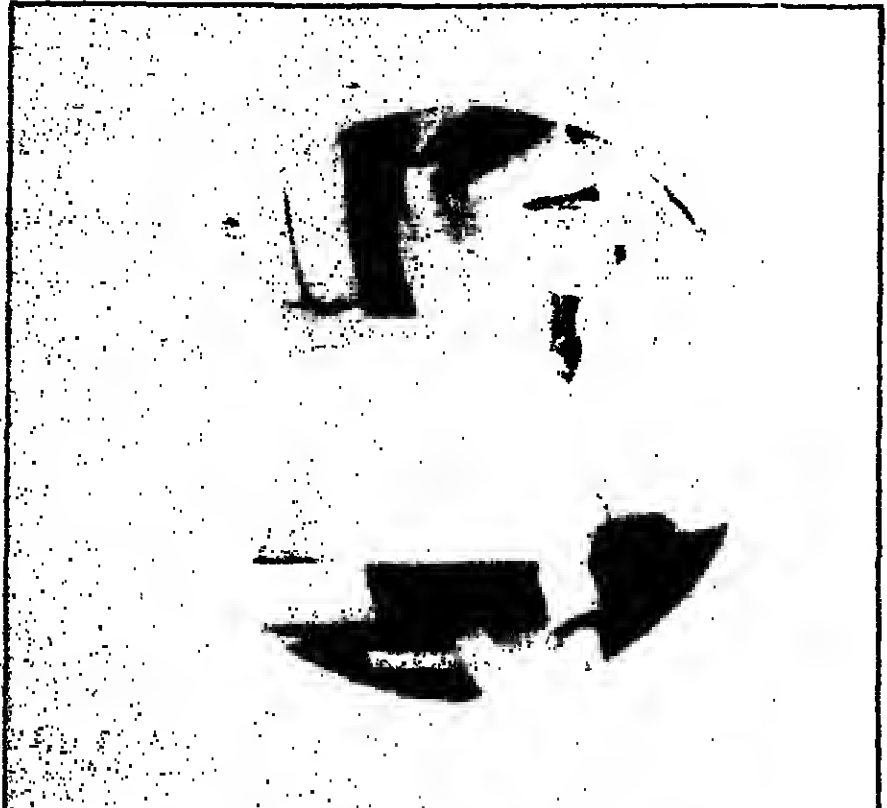
WASHINGTON, April 14. (Kuna): The senate Republican minority leader Robert Dole admitted yesterday that his co-sponsorship of a resolution on Jerusalem last month "might have been a mistake" and that he might try to correct that next week.

Dole made this acknowledgement in a live interview on CBS's "This Morning" from occupied Jerusalem, where he and five other American congressmen met with Israeli Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir after their tour of a number of Arab countries over the last week, including Egypt, Syria and Iraq.

Dole acknowledged that the non-binding senate resolution on Jerusalem was brought up in every Arab capital they visited. "They are very upset about the senate resolution which in effect said that Jerusalem should be the capital of Israel."

He then added, "some of us who found ourselves co-sponsors that resolution, have been sharply attacked. I told Prime Minister Shamir that it was a mistake, we should not have done that and I would try to correct that next week."

The Bush administration strongly opposed the Jerusalem resolution adopted by the congress and said it will not change its position on the whole issue of Jerusalem, which states that the status of Jerusalem should be left for the negotiations between the parties involved in any final settlement.



A British Customs and Excise officer inspects a section of the 40m long pipe April 13

NEWSWATCH

Farouzi joins Good Friday prayers: Farouzi, the Arab world's most famous singer, joined Lebanese Christians in observing Good Friday in Muslim west Beirut where they had taken refuge from an inter-Christian war.

Some 3,000 Christians remembered the crucifixion of Jesus Christ with more grief as their community suffered its bloodiest internal power struggle.

Farouzi, a Christian Lebanese, clad in black, knelt in front of the cross as he prayed. Many of the congregation were displaced families who have fled the battered Christian heartland. (Reuters)

Kuwait aid for Lebanon: A convoy of trucks loaded with the second batch of medical and food aid supplied by Kuwait to Lebanon will arrive in Beirut next week to be distributed among Lebanese. It was announced in Beirut Friday.

An official at the Kuwaiti embassy in Beirut today said that the 20-truck convoy is to reach the Syrian-Lebanese Al Masna' border post next week where Lebanese officials will receive it. (Kuna)

(See Pages 5 & 6)
Bush-Thatcher meet in Bermuda: President George Bush and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, wrapping up a Good Friday summit discussion of sweeping changes in Europe, warned Moscow not to escalate tensions with independence-minded Lithuania or risk hurting relations with the West. (UPI)

Quake shakes up Washington: A sharp earthquake shook northwest Washington state and southeast British Columbia overnight, authorities said Saturday. One US-Canada border crossing was closed but there were no reports of serious damage or injuries.

Wedding called off: The Venice wedding between Prince George, Duke of Edinburgh, and Lorenza Montezemolo, who calls himself Prince Giustino, is off.

Phytop, a Sydney socialite, and Lorenza, a Qantas airline stewardess, were to marry on Monday at the Basilica di San Pietro in Venice. The groom of the Australian cocktail set was to attend. (Reuters)

US not serious on Mideast peace: A senior PLO official in remarks published on Saturday accused the United States and Israel of failing to take Middle East peace efforts seriously, and said a US plan for Israeli-Palestinian talks was a bluff.

"These are all slogans raised to buy time," Farouq Kaddoumi, foreign minister of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, told the Arabic language London-based newspaper Al Hayat. (Reuters)

British pilot dies: A young British pilot died during the night of injuries suffered in a plane crash that killed his parents and a friend, authorities said Saturday.

Pilot Mark Lilley, 24, was the only person on board not killed at the time of the crash. The single-engine Beechcraft plane exploded and crashed in Bayeux, in Normandy, en route from Britain to Spain. (AP)

Hype or pipe?

LONDON, April 14. (Agencies): Fresh doubts emerged today over allegations that eight steel castings intercepted en route to Iraq were parts for a giant gun which would enable Baghdad to fire nuclear or chemical warheads into Israel or Iran.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, in Bermuda for talks with US President George Bush, acknowledged that there was a dispute but said that if the parts could be kept from Iraq, "it is a pretty good rule first to find the facts before you make any further comment," she said.

President George Bush pledged to co-operate in tightening export laws if British investigators determine that an Iraq-bound shipment of tubing was really the makings of a huge gun.

British customs seized the sections after a Defence Ministry expert said they could be used to make a gun barrel and broke arms export rules.

The decision was hotly contested by the manufacturers who said the order was approved by the government and was part of a larger consignment of precision cylinders for Iraq's petrochemical industry.

Independent television news, without attribution, quoted senior government sources as saying the shipment was "probably only a pipeline."

"The government's view is that the Iraqis and companies involved may have been falsely accused," it added.

Customs confiscated the finely-machined sections two weeks after seizing US electrical components bound for Baghdad which could be used to make nuclear triggers.

Iraq has accused Britain of conducting a smear campaign against it since the execution of British-based journalist Farzad Bazoft in Baghdad last month on spying charges.

Sheffield forgers, who made the castings, said 44 similar pipes had already been delivered to Iraq with the approval of the Department of Trade and Industry.

Exporters chief executive Philip Wright said that, if the tubing had been intended for military use, then forgers and the department of trade (Continued on Page 7)

Improve big guns
Slain expert helped Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 14. (Reuters): A murdered arms dealer linked to alleged Iraqi efforts to build a "doomsday gun," helped Israel improve its heavy weapons, the army's former head of artillery was yesterday quoted as saying.

Interviewed in the Yedioth Ahronoth daily newspaper, Reserve Brigadier Avraham Bar-David said Gerald Bull, who was assassinated last month, helped Israel greatly increase the range of its field artillery.

"He visited this country and proposed his innovations to the army and manufacturers," Bar David said, describing Bull as the world's foremost authority on heavy artillery.

"Some of them were used in field artillery and permitted a very significant increase in their range," he added, without saying where Bull visited Israel.

Bull was found dead in his Brussels flat on March 22, shot twice in the neck at point blank range.

Some newspapers speculated that Bull might have been killed by the Israeli secret service, Mossad, a theory supported by his son.

Others suggested he had been killed by Iran, another potential target of a huge gun it is alleged Iraq was developing.

British customs officials have seized steel cylinders due to be shipped to Iraq saying they could be components for a massive gun — dubbed the "doomsday gun" — capable of firing chemical or biological shells at targets up to 1,600 km (1,000 miles) away.

Iraq denies the charge, saying the tubes are oil pipes.

The makers, Sheffield Forgemasters, said yesterday that the "doomsday gun" theory was absurd. It said eight confiscated pipe sections were part of a larger consignment for Iraq's petrochemical industry, 44 of which were already delivered with British government approval.

British and Belgian press reports linked the seizure of the cylinders to Bull's unsolved murder.

Nawaf urges Arabs
Stand by Iraq

KUWAIT, April 14. (Reuters): Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Sabah in remarks published today urged Arab states to back Iraq against what he termed an international campaign.

"We should not leave Iraq alone in the scene," Sheikh Nawaf told a Kuwaiti daily.

Sheikh Nawaf reiterated Kuwait's support for Baghdad and said he hoped that all Arab states would back Iraq "before it was too late... they have no other alternative."

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has faced a storm of Western criticism since threatening last month to retaliate against any Israeli attack with binary chemical weapons.

Ramadan timings

| | |
|-------|---------|
| Imrak | 3.50 am |
| Iftar | 6.15 pm |

Pakistan gearing for war: V P Singh

Tension high in Jammu-Kashmir

NEW DELHI, April 14. (Agencies): Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh said today that Pakistan is gearing for war and India was prepared for "any eventuality."

Pakistan, in turn, claimed that "India wants war."

Singh told reporters that Pakistan had moved radar units and armoured regiments close to the Indian border and was readying its airfields for use. He said India's northern neighbour had "sounded a red alert, which is the last word" in war preparations.

A Pakistani Foreign Ministry official scoffed at the Indian allegations, calling them a "figment of V.P. Singh's imagination."

"India wants war and V.P. Singh's threats... are a clear indication just how badly," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Tension was high in the state of Jammu-Kashmir. India and Pakistan have fought two wars over Kashmir, and at least 270 people have been killed since the Indian government launched a crackdown on Muslim separatists in the state in January.

"India cannot accept the fact that the Kashmiris want their freedom and are not only trying to oppress this movement but to start another war and blame us," said the Pakistani Foreign Ministry official in Islamabad.

Singh told reporters that there was no question of holding talks with Pakistan on the Kashmir issue until that country stopped its support to insurgency in India.

He said there could be no dialogue as long as Pakistan continued to aid and abet terrorism through training and financial support.

Singh said India had been successful in conveying to the international community that Pakistan had clear territorial ambitions in Kashmir.

Last week, the prime minister made his strongest-ever speech on the Kashmir issue in the Lok Sabha when he said the country's armed forces were fully prepared to fend off any threat from across the border and called upon the people to be psychologically prepared for any eventuality.

Singh told the Lok Sabha that Pakistan's basic strategy seemed to be to support insurgency but it might also attempt a limited intervention if the conditions were right.

Today, outside the state's capital of Srinagar, a grenade thrown by militants exploded near an army truck, injuring three soldiers. In the state's capital, police said.

A round-the-clock curfew entered its eighth day in Srinagar as police arrested 100 people in their search for the killers of three kidnapping victims.

Police have detained more than 1,000 people, mostly young men and boys, in their search, security officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The bullet-ridden bodies of three hostages — industrialist L.M. Khara, general manager of the Hindustan Machine Tools Co., Kashmir University Vice Chancellor Mushir-ul-Haq and Haq's secretary — were found earlier this week.

Muslim separatists had demanded the release of three jailed militants in exchange for the men. The government refused.

On Friday, Muslim militants kidnapped a former member of the state legislature, Amirullah Khan, 75, his home in Shopian, 60 kilometres (37 miles) north-



Bomb on bus kills 10 in Delhi

A bomb exploded in a crowded city bus in the Indian capital on Friday, killing at least ten people and wounding 24, police and hospital sources said.

United News of India reported 10 dead and 27 wounded. There was no immediate explanation for the discrepancy.

The explosion also damaged a jeep travelling next to the bus in the western district of Wazirpur.

Earlier this week, Muslim separatists in the northern Jammu-Kashmir state claimed responsibility for two bombings in New Delhi and one in Bombay.

"It is the work of professionals," a police official said on condition of not being identified.

Friday's blast inspired a police alert in the Indian capital. Police advised residents through radio announcements not to touch any unknown object.

Picture shows doctors attending to a man whose leg was blown off by the bomb blast.

Hostages freed in Beirut were held in Libya: French paper

PARIS, April 14. (UPI): Three hostages released earlier this week in Beirut were captured by the government of Col Muammar Khaddafi and held in Libya and not Lebanon, Khaddafi and an authoritative newspaper report published on Friday that the French government said may be true.

Citing unnamed sources in Paris, Brussels and Beirut, the conservative Paris newspaper Le Figaro said the Algerian government and not Col Khaddafi served as the principal mediator in the negotiations to free the hostages.

The revelations are certain to further embarrass the French socialist government, which has come under intense international criticism for profusely thanking the Libyan

leader for what French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas called his "noble and humanitarian gesture" in helping to free the captives.

While the foreign and French press have condemned the French attitude and the US State Department asked Paris to give it a full accounting of the circumstances leading to the release, the French conservative political opposition remained silent all week about the issue.

With politicians away for the long Easter weekend, there was no reaction on Friday to the Figaro article, which appeared to confirm the widespread belief among many Frenchmen that the hostages were exchanged for the return to Tripoli earlier this year of three Mirage jet Paris

had blocked since 1986 as part of an arms embargo against Khaddafi.

The French Foreign Ministry refused to deny the Figaro report, saying that even the exact date and place where the freed hostages and five other persons were taken prisoner as well as who had actually carried out the operation remained unclear.

"There are many questions without answers. We are not certain about the place of detention," a spokesman for the French Foreign Ministry admitted in a telephone interview.

The spokesman refused to comment on Le Figaro's assertion that the Algerian government had been the key intermediary in the case.

President Francois Mitterrand, however, on Thursday thanked Algerian President Chadli Benjedid as well as King Hassan II of Morocco and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt for their help in freeing the hostages.

Le Figaro said the three freed captives, Fernand Houtekins, a 42-year old Belgian cook, his companion Jacqueline Valente of France, 31, and their daughter Sophie, were flown from Tripoli to Damascus on April 8 aboard a private Algerian airplane.

The Libyan embassy yesterday accused US and British news media of unjustly attacking France and Libya for their roles in the recent release of three hostages.

Political violence in Karachi Hunger strikes may be called off

KARACHI, Pakistan, April 14. (Reuters): Two rival leaders who staged hunger strikes in protest at political violence in Karachi this week may abandon their fasts after communication between their two groups.

Political sources said yesterday they believed the contact could lead to the hunger strikes being called off and help talks aimed at ending a spate of political killings in which at least 20 people have died in the past week.

Opposition leaders rallied to the bedside of Altaf Hussain, who is on a glucose drip after a six-day hunger strike aggravated a serious kidney complaint, one of his doctors said.

Hussain, who represents Muslim migrants from India, is leader of the opposition Mohajir National Movement

(MQM). He began his fast last weekend, demanding arrest of those who killed 12 MQM activists.

Gunmen killed an ambulance worker and a bomb injured two people in Karachi today, police said.

More than 20 people were killed in gun battles last week between followers of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and the opposition Mohajir National Movement (MQM).

A car bomb exploded at a shopping centre in the Pakistani capital Islamabad yesterday, injuring two young girls.

The blast blew the car apart and sent debris flying across a market place where people had gathered after the end of the day's fasting for the holy Islamic month of Ramadan.

INTERNATIONAL

Mongolia
reds to
hold fair
elections

ULAN BATOR, April 14. (Reuters): Mongolia's new Communist Party leaders promised today to run fair elections in July in the first polls since the nation's history.

"The Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party will take part on an equal basis" with newly created opposition parties, Gombojavijn Ochirbat told a televised news conference.

Ochirbat, 61, was confirmed as party leader yesterday at the end of an emergency congress just a month after he was appointed following pro-democracy demonstrations that forced the old leadership to quit.

Elections are scheduled for late July, billed as Mongolia's first free polls since it became a communist state under the Soviet Union's close control in 1921.

Under new party rules, the communists will no longer receive state funding and will have to finance themselves, as do Mongolia's loose-knit alliance of opposition parties, which have emerged since December on the back of the East European democracy movement.

A land of deserts, mountains and steppes covering an area the size of Western Europe, Mongolia has just over two million people, who have long lived in the shadow of their powerful neighbours, the Soviet Union and China.

Diplomats in Ulan Bator said it was too early to predict whether the ruling communists would allow a free election race.

Damdinjavijn Ninjav, the Mongolian Democratic Association, said the communists might give the opposition a fair chance but he was pessimistic about prospects of them keeping to their promises of economic and social reform.

The association announced this week it would form a coalition with two other democratic parties to contest the elections.

Opposition accuses Birendra of stalling reforms

KATHMANDU, April 14. (Reuters): Nepal's opposition expressed dissatisfaction with King Birendra's failure to address the issue of reform in a major speech on Saturday and accused him of trying to stall the process to preserve his powers.

Officials of newly legalised political parties leading a powerful movement for multiparty democracy said public anger could erupt again unless the King moved more quickly on reform.

Birendra, in a broadcast speech marking Nepal's new year, expressed sadness over the loss of life during the eight-week campaign by the movement for the restoration of democracy.

Doctors say at least 50 people were killed on April 6 when thousands marched on his palace to demand reform. Movement estimates put the death toll at between 150 and 200. The government said six people were killed.

Birendra afterwards swiftly legalised political parties after a 30-year ban, but despite talks with the opposition there have been no further moves.

In his speech, the King promised a commission would be established soon to review the constitution and expressed confidence in the future of the Himalayan nation, one of the world's poorest.

But he said nothing about the democracy movement's demands that the country's system of indirectly elected councils, known as panchayats, should be abolished in favour of parliamentary democracy and a constitutional monarchy.

"We are disappointed. There is a conspiracy to delay, not to solve the problems," said Girija Prasad Koirala, general secretary of the centrist Nepali Congress Party.

"He wants to give concessions to the Rashtriya (national) panchayat to safeguard his own powers. He is hiding his time," Koirala told Reuters.

"But time is running out. The people are getting restive and angry and may explode against the King," he added.

Hopes of a quick settlement of the opposition's demands rose on Friday after the King met its leader, Ganesh Man Singh, Nepal's most highly regarded opposition politician.

Sabana Pradhan, leader of communist groups that joined Congress in the movement, also expressed disappointment.

"We expected some results of the meeting to be announced in the King's speech," she said. "They are trying to linger. They are trying to deceive the people. There is a crisis of confidence."

Democracy movement leaders were scheduled to meet the King again on Sunday. They hope to have an interim government under opposition leadership in place within a week to organise general elections under a reformed constitution.

Diplomats said the King appeared to be digging in for some hard bargaining over the reform demands.

"We can only hope that in all these negotiations are taking into account the anger and impatience of the people," the delays," the diplomat added.

Frustrated towards reform, the streets of Kathmandu and two other main towns of the Kathmandu valley, the main focus of the agitation.

The King functions above the constitution and it remained unclear what powers were prepared in return for peace.

Foreign Minister Pashupati Rambaran comment when asked if Birendra was prepared to relinquish some of his powers would become a constitutional impediment.



Ban on visits

A woman demonstrator in Manila protesting a ban on visits to Philippine prisoners that took effect last Sunday amid new coup threats, hands over to the guard at the main constabulary camp prison yesterday a letter for her husband, a general facing court martial for alleged involvement in a failed coup last December. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sino-Soviet rapprochement

Li to visit Moscow

BEIJING, April 14. (AP): Chinese Premier Li Peng will visit the Soviet Union April 23-26, becoming the first Chinese head of government to travel to Moscow since 1964, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

The ministry in a statement, said Li "will have an extensive and in-depth exchange of views with Soviet leaders on the bilateral relations and major international issues of common concern."

Li was invited to visit the Soviet Union last May, when Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev made the first trip to Beijing by a Soviet leader in three decades.

The exchange of visits has marked the end of decades of hostility between the two socialist states and signalled a gradual warming of political and economic relations.

Rebels
warn UK
trainers
in Manila

MANILA, April 14. (UPI): Military dissidents said yesterday a group of British mercenaries was involved in training government troops in counter-coup exercises and warned they will "take drastic actions" if they do not leave the country.

The clandestine Young Officers Union (Yon) said in a letter to the British embassy the mercenaries took part in war exercises, including a counter-assault on the presidential palace, congress and the Manila International Airport on Wednesday and Thursday.

"We wish to inform your office that a group of British mercenaries has been employed and paid for with taxpayers' money by the Aquino regime to train and arm its own yellow army," said the letter, which also was set to news agencies.

Loyalist troops have been described by the rebels as the yellow army because the colour was Aquino's symbol when he ran against the late former President Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

"Our forces in Manila have closely monitored the various activities of these mercenaries which are a direct intervention to the country's internal security affairs and a clear violation of Philippine sovereignty," it said.

"We have the identities of these mercenaries and we know where they are. We, therefore, ask the British embassy to order them to leave the country at once or Yon forces will take drastic action," the letter said.

The British embassy and Philippine officials could not immediately be contacted for comment, although Philippine military officials have said Yon was non-existent.

They said it was not separate from the Reform the Armed Forces Movement, whose members led several coup attempts against President Corason Aquino, including the Dec 1-9 rebellion that nearly toppled her.

You also claimed responsibility for the daring commando-style assault at dawn Sunday on the Manila city jail that freed detained coup leader, former police colonel Billy Bibit.

A soft-drink delivery truck carrying some three dozen hitchhikers returned Saturday, killing at least eight people and injuring 27 others, a survivor and hospital authorities said.

The truck was delivering cases of Coca-Cola to Marawi City when the accident occurred near the town of Pantar in Lanao del Norte province.

Singh's bid for
Punjab peace

Bodos bomb railway lines

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

AMRITSAR, April 14: For the second time since assuming office in December, Prime Minister V.P. Singh yesterday visited the Sikhs' holy city of Amritsar in a bid to restore peace in the terrorism-ridden state of Punjab.

"Bullets and ballots cannot go together," he told the people of the state where several political groups are demanding early assembly elections.

Singh said the centre was keen on holding elections within six months provided peace was restored and people created a congenial atmosphere for resuming the political process.

Only a few days ago, India's Parliament had voted to extend central rule in Punjab for a further six months from May 11 because it felt that conditions were not right for holding assembly elections immediately. In May, the state would complete three years of president's rule.

Singh's first visit to Amritsar was in December last. Things were different then. There was great euphoria when he drove in an open jeep for some distance and offered prayers for peace at the Golden Temple, the holiest shrine of the Sikhs.

Today, there was no such drive in open jeeps. In fact, Singh had been warned against visiting the state by intelligence agencies who feared an attempt on his life.

This was revealed by the prime minister himself at a largely-attended public rally organised by several political parties jointly to pay homage to the hundreds of people who were mowed down by bullets in what has come to be known as the Jallianwala Bagh massacre way back in 1919 on this very day.

But Singh chose to visit Amritsar anyway because he knows that is the only way to keep up contacts with the people.

The prime minister recalled that Sikhs had valiantly fought for the country as soldiers in the past and called upon them to come to the fore again in the fight against terrorists and forces from across the border abetting insurgency in the state.

The visit comes against the background of some major terrorist incidents in recent weeks, including the killings at Abohar, and the bomb blast at Batala, in which many lives were lost. Singh regretted that peace had not been restored despite several steps taken by the new government.

Thousands of people had lined up the streets of Amritsar to greet the prime minister. Security was extremely tight, with the police not wanting to take any chances.

The prime minister was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal, Home Minister Mufi Mohammed Sayed, and leaders of several parties including the BJP, the CPI and the CPM.

■ Suspected extremists from the Bodo tribe bombed a railway line, a road and a major bridge, and launched street attacks, killing at least 25 people, authorities said yesterday.

100 hurt as tornado hits Bangladesh

DHAKA, April 14. (AP): A tornado tore through six villages in eastern Bangladesh, injuring at least 100 people, blowing down houses and toppling trees, news reports said today.

The twister devastated the villages in Brahmanbaria district, 50 miles (80 kilometres) east of Dhaka, said the Bengali-language daily Ittefaq.

At least 100 people were injured as the tornado toppled houses late Thursday night. About 300 mud-and-straw dwellings were destroyed during the storm, it said. Crops were also damaged.

Bangladesh, is often buffeted by natural disasters. Summer floods, cyclones and storms kill hundreds of people every year.



Indian bomb disposal experts inspect the remains of the bus. (Reuters wire-photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Australia to accept refugees: Australia, which has been an important resettlement country for Vietnamese boat people since 1975, will accept up to 11,000 refugees from Southeast Asian countries over the next three years.

John L. Williams, a counsellor for Refugees and Migration with the Australian High Commission in Malaysia said today this was in addition to 44,000 already accepted by Australia, mostly from Malaysia, since 1975. (Kuna)

3 Kids kill wife-beating father: Three school children stabbed and clubbed to death their drunken father who was beating his wife, police said on Saturday in Seoul.

Kang Kyu-Son, 40, was knocked down with baseball bat wielded by his ten-year-old son as he was battering his wife, and was then attacked by his two daughters aged 12 and 13. (Reuters)

"Necklace" killing: Hundreds of people watched a man burn to death after being "necklaced" in a busy street in central Johannesburg, police said on Saturday.

Witnesses said a petrol-soaked tyre was hung around the neck of the unidentified black man and then set alight on Friday evening. Passers-by throwing the busy Hillbrow district of the city centre could do nothing to help the victim. (Reuters)

Kaifu to visit Bangladesh: Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu will pay a two-day official visit to Bangladesh from May 1, the official BSS news agency said.

It said on Thursday a committee headed by Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed was completing plans to welcome the first Japanese head of government to visit Dhaka. (Reuters)

Thai offer to protect Sihanouk: Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk has accepted Thailand's offer of help and fled his recently re-established home to escape enemy bombs, a Sihanouk spokesman said Friday.

But Sihanouk, who had said he moved back to Cambodia as part of a resistance effort to defeat the Vietnamese-backed government in Phnom Penh, said he relocated only at the insistence of Thai leaders and would return soon. (UPI)

Easter supplies flown: The Royal Australian Air Force on Saturday flew emergency Easter supplies into two small outback towns that have been cut off from the rest of Australia for two weeks by flooding.

Floodwaters have isolated the towns of Quilpie and Thargomindah, both about 670 miles (1,000km) west of Brisbane in southwest Queensland state. (AP)

Gang arrested for forging visas: Burma's military junta has arrested 13 people for alleged forgery of visa documents that would have allowed Burmese nationals to flee for a fee of up to \$9,000, a government newspaper said Friday.

The 13 suspects allegedly forged Burmese exit papers as well as entry visas to the United States and South Korea, according to the Working People's daily. (AP)

Shevardnadze to visit Japan: Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will visit Japan after the Soviet-US summit conference in late May, the Soviet ambassador to Japan was Saturday quoted as saying.

Japanese Liberal Democratic Party's sources said that Ambassador Nikolai Soloviev told the party's leaders that Shevardnadze's meeting with his US counterpart James Baker during the superpower summit in Washington will be a major factor in fixing a date for his visit to Japan. (Kuna)

Protest at
US Army
presence
in Seoul

SEOUL, April 14. (AP): Hundreds of students demanding the withdrawal of US troops clashed with riot police yesterday in the provincial city of Taejeon, reports said.

About 1,000 students marched from the campus of Chonnam University shouting "out US soldiers," and riot police responded with tear-gas to break up the demonstration, said the South Korean news agency Yonhap.

About 800 students at Taejeon's Gongju University also battled riot police with rocks and firebombs, demanding a pullout of US forces. Yonhap said.

There were no immediate reports of injuries in either protest.

Taejeon, 135 kilometres (85 miles) south of the capital, is rumoured to be a possible site for a planned move of Seoul's US army headquarters, which supervises 43,000 US troops stationed in South Korea.

Radicals, a small minority on campuses, and some residents of the area, have staged violent protests against the possible move.

Anti-US sentiment in South Korea is generally ascribed to rising nationalism, trade conflicts and a vocal campaign by dissidents.

South Koreans have also called for greater jurisdiction over crimes involving US soldiers to protect the rights of South Koreans.

Yesterday, South Korea's national police issued a report that 377 US soldiers were charged with breaking laws last year and 244 of them were charged with rape, burglary or unspecified violent acts.

Most of the rest were charged with violation of traffic regulations or contributing to accidents, it said.

■ South Korea's state-run broadcasting network was hit by walkouts today, forcing the cancellation of programming.

Union workers were staying away from their jobs to demand the resignation of their newly appointed president.

About 3,000 unionised workers of the KBS Radio and Television network vowed to continue the protests, which began Thursday, until the network president, Suh Ki-won, resigns.

They denounced Suh as pro-government, anti-reform and opposed to press freedom.

N. Korea
N. plant

WASHINGTON, April 14. (UPI) A senior defence official said on Thursday "there's reason to believe" North Korea is building a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant that would enable it to make nuclear weapons.

It's a matter of great concern to us," said Henry Rowen, assistant defence secretary for international security affairs.

"They have a reactor and (U) plutonium from the reactor's nuclear fuel rods for nuclear weapons," Rowen told reporters at a breakfast meeting.

North Korea has had a nuclear reactor at Yongbyon, north of Pyongyang, since 1954, but the construction of a nuclear fuel reprocessing facility nearby was only announced previously by unidentified US intelligence sources.

Pressed about his identification of the construction site as a reprocessing facility, Rowen said, "I think there's reason to believe there's something like that. I wouldn't want to say that it's complete."

Dubbed the "Tsunami" — Japanese for "tidal wave" — by local media, Fujimori has become the favourite to win the deciding run-off on May 27 or June 3 as wins support from leftist parties and leaders of the ruling Peruvian Agrista Party.

Vargas Llosa, a world-renowned novelist and, like Fujimori, a political novice, has chosen his own supporters. For showing hostility towards Asians. But apparently with little effect.

Fujimori candidacy unleashes anti-Asian feelings in Peru

LIMA, April 14. (Reuters): A backlash against ethnic Asians has been unleashed in Peru after Alberto Fujimori, the son of Japanese immigrants, became the surprise favourite to win the presidency.

President Alan Garcia, Peru's Catholic prime minister and prominent academics have all condemned the rash of hostility towards the local Japanese community by supporters of Fujimori's right candidate Mario Vargas Llosa. Fujimori's rival for the presidency, who has also distanced himself from what he called racism's "scourge."

People of Asian descent say they have been insulted in the street, denied entry to elegant restaurants and bars and received a sudden cold shoulder from neighbours and co-workers.

The homes of Japanese-Peruvian families have been stoned, the Lima daily newspaper Expreso reported.

"Even old acquaintances act very strange without a sort of cold patronising," said Amelia Morimoto, an anthropologist and daughter of Japanese immigrants.

Lima's Peruvian-Japanese cultural centre has reported receiving threatening phone calls. Private television channels are re-running films which cast the Japanese in an unflattering light, like "Bridge Over the River Kwai" and "Tora, Tora, Tora."

Fujimori, whose father, a tailor, arrived in Peru in 1930, stunned the nation when he surged from nowhere to come within four percentage points of beating Vargas Llosa in the first round of voting last Sunday out of a field of nine candidates.

Dubbed the "Tsunami" — Japanese for "tidal wave" — by local media, Fujimori has become the favourite to win the deciding run-off on May 27 or June 3 as wins support from leftist parties and leaders of the ruling Peruvian Agrista Party.

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Superstar Madonna performs at Chiba marine stadium on Friday, the opening day of her nine-concert tour in Japan. (Reuters wirephoto)

Madonna kicks off world tour

Rain-soaked opening

FUNABASHI, Japan, April 14. (UPI) A capacity crowd of 34,000 huddled under disposable umbrellas and souvenir towels to see pop music star Madonna slip and slide her way through the rain-soaked opening performance of her "blond ambition" world tour Friday.

Madonna struggled to flood her footing during the early numbers at the open-air Chiba Marine Stadium, in a suburb of Tokyo, and had to ask repeatedly for roadies to mop the floor for her and her dancers.

"We're going to do the best we can," she apologized to her dripping audience at one point.

"I'll bet you didn't know you were going to get an ice capades show, did you?" Madonna said at one point in the show after hydroplaning across a puddle.

Fans seemed undaunted by the downpour and whooped enthusiastic approval as the pop star pranced and twirled through numbers from her soon-to-be released album, "I'm Breathless," and past hits.

Looking muscular and trim, Madonna fused symbols of religion and sexual passion in the show's early numbers.

She performed the title song from her current album "Like a Prayer" in a monastic black frock and amidst the glow of three banks of electric candles and an enormous neon crucifix.

In the next numbers, "Live To Tell" and "O Fash," she traded the robe for a scanty metallic halter and crooned sultrily while strutting a velvet alter.

In the later half of the performance, Madonna and her dancers jiggled to a boogie-woogie beat, evoking the tempo and style of America's jazz age.

Flanked by a cadre of dancers

in bright yellow trench coats and fedoras, Madonna belted out "I'm Following You," a song featured on the soundtrack of the movie "Dick Tracy."

Tickets for Madonna's Tokyo concerts, costing as much as \$62 apiece, have been sold out for weeks.

Madonna will perform a total of nine concerts in Japan, making stops in Osaka and Yokohama before moving on to the United States, where she opens in Houston on May 4, and then Europe.

Madonna is unquestionably among the most celebrated artists in Japan, and her records have dominated the nation's pop charts and air waves.

The audience at Friday's performance seemed heavily populated with young teenage girls, several of whom expressed admiration for Madonna's muscular physique and her assertive manner in dealing with men.

Many of these "wanna-bees," fans who imitate Madonna's style, giggled approvingly when Madonna gave a playful kick to one of the male dancers in her troupe and ordered another to his knees.

"Madonna's music affects me much more than the music of any Japanese rock star," said 18-year-old Yoko Sato, one of a flock of Madonna fan club members who gathered in front of the stadium to imitate the pop star's video routines.

"Japanese idols are only putting on an act," she said. "But Madonna really inspires me to be my best."

Utako Watanabe, 19, arrived at the concert carrying a carefully annotated notebook filled with clippings about Madonna from Time, Vogue and other Western magazines.

Meet to diffuse hatred against Islam

MONTREAL, April 14 (Kuna) The University of Manitoba in western Canada is holding a propaganda conference to disseminate hatred against Islam.

That is the charge levelled by the National Council on Canada Arab Relations against the Canadian University sponsoring the three-day event.

The university's counter-terror study centre has invited experts from all over North America for a conference entitled "Islamic terrorism in

the 1990's and the threat to North America."

Among the lectures that will be delivered from April 20-22 are "The threat to Canada, the threat to the USA, and the threat to North America." Guests include representatives from the government, the military, police and academics.

Jan Watson, executive director of the National Council on Canada/Arab Relations says that the mere title of the conference "is deeply offensive to more than 160,000

adherents of Islam in Canada."

Because of Watson's lobbying as well as pressure from all other Muslim and Arab groups in Canada, the name of the conference is being changed to "Terrorism in the Middle East." But the substance has not changed and it enrages those who care about the image of Arabs in Canada.

Says Watson, "to hold a conference focusing on Islam and terrorism doesn't make any more sense than to hold a conference on Christianity

or Judaism and terrorism."

Watson points out that the only act of terrorism in Canada in 1989 was the hijacking of a bus by a Lebanese Christian. And before that, minor acts of terror were committed by Sikhs and by members of the Jewish Defence League. Watson, in a letter addressed to the Manitoba Human Rights Commission also enclosed a 1985 FBI report which pinpointed Jewish extremist groups as one of the major terrorist threats in North America.

British prison siege goes on

MANCHESTER, England, April 14. (Reuters) Prisoners holding out in Britain's longest jail siege this century were poised to give up their 13-day standoff yesterday but changed their minds.

The mother of self-proclaimed ringleader Paul Taylor and relatives of other inmates arrived at Strangeways jail in Manchester, raising hopes of an end to the occupation.

Prison officers in riot gear lined up inside the perimeter walls and one prison source said all the inmates were making their way down landings inside the jail but suddenly turned around.

There was no explanation why an apparent agreement to end the deadlock had crumbled.

Two prisoners later gave themselves up and a Home Office spokesman said there were now fewer than 13 inmates inside the building.

Prison authorities said they would continue negotiations despite growing pressure to retake the jail by force.

Prison official Ian Lockwood told a news briefing negotiating teams had been in contact with the inmates and were continuing efforts to reach a settlement.

Violence

Taylor, believed to be one of the ringleaders of a violent riot inside the jail, has told his solicitor he would come down "in the next day or so." Authorities believe if he surrenders the others will follow.

Strangeways governor Brendan O'Friel said the April 1 riot was the worst in British prison history and described the violence as "an explosion of evil."

One prisoner died in hospital after being severely beaten in the revolt and a prison officer died of heart attack after attempting to stop rioting inmates taking over the jail.

Since the Strangeways riot, violence spread to other prisons around Britain but all have been brought under control.

The charred body of one prisoner was found after fires broke out during a 24-hour siege at Dartmoor prison in southwest England last weekend.

Some inmates surrendering earlier claimed they had seen dead bodies inside, but others insisted there had been no deaths.

The only person confirmed dead as a result of injuries suffered in the rioting was a prisoner accused of sexually assaulting three children.

Solicitor Barry Cottle, who has been acting as an independent observer at negotiations between the remaining inmates and prison staff said, "We have been hopeful for a long time and have been let down and disappointed."

The Home Office, which oversees Britain's 125 penal institutions, said at Strangeways, there are fewer than 20 holding the central rotunda from which they can control access to the Victorian-era jail's five main wings.

"We are scaling it down and are hopeful that they will all come out soon," an official said. "There are only a handful left."

PEOPLE AND PLACES



Soviet pilot in US for treatment

A Soviet helicopter pilot suffering from acute leukemia following his heroic work to contain radiation from the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident is to undergo a bone marrow transplant in Seattle.

Anatoly Grishchenko (shown right), a commercial helicopter pilot who dumped loads of concrete and sand onto the damaged reactor will receive the potentially life-saving treatment at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, doctors said on Thursday.

Grishchenko, 52, arrived on Wednesday and is awaiting bone marrow from an unidentified donor, who was located in France through an international donor registry. The

donor is to fly to Seattle on April 27.

Doctors said they believe Grishchenko's sickness, which is usually fatal unless treated, was caused by exposure to high-level radiation.

An Arizona pilot, Cap Parlier, who tests helicopters for the McDonnell-Douglas Co, led the campaign to bring Grishchenko to the United States. He learned of the Soviet pilot's plight while attending an international air show in Paris last June.

Grishchenko is shown above talking to reporter while wife Galina listens. (Reuters wirephoto)

MONTREY, California: A 90-year-old man who was left an orphan in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake became unofficially the 68th victim of last October's quake.

John James McDonald died April 6 at Monterey Convalescent Hospital, where he was moved after being treated for head injuries at Sequoia hospital in Redwood city.

McDonald was found injured in his apartment in Belmont, 25 miles (40 kilometres) south of San Francisco, two days after the Oct 17 earthquake. (AP)

US curbs on aliens with Aids relaxed

WASHINGTON, April 14. (AP) The US government yesterday relaxed restrictions for foreigners infected with the Aids virus who want to attend certain conferences in the United States.

People who want to attend business, scientific or professional gatherings will now be able to obtain a 10-day visa without revealing whether they are infected with the deadly disease.

The change is aimed at defusing protests against US immigration policy, including a proposed boycott of an upcoming international Aids conference.

The administration is committed to ensuring that persons seeking admission to the United States are treated with fairness and compassion, "the Immigration and Naturalization Service said in announcing the new visa policy.

People applying for the 10-day visa will not have to reveal whether they are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, which causes Aids, though they will have to meet all other immigration restrictions.

The change did not satisfy Aids activists, who want the government to lift all immigration restrictions on people who have HIV.

"If this is all they're going to do, it is nothing," said Mervyn Silverman, president of the American Foundation for Aids Research.

June Osborn, chairman of the National Commission on Aids, said the move was "a step in the right direction in the short run." But, she said, work has to continue toward freeing people with Aids from travel restrictions.

Louis Sullivan, the US Secretary of Health and Human Services, who has authority to determine which conferences are in the public interest, immediately certified two events under the new visa policy: The sixth international conference on Aids to be held June 20-24 in San Francisco, and the 19th International Congress of the World Federation of Hemophilia to be held Aug 14-19 in Washington.

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'Tomatoes from space are safe to eat'

WASHINGTON, April 14. (Reuters) Tomatoes grown from seeds that drifted in space for nearly six years are safe to eat as any garden-variety fruit or vegetable, US officials said yesterday, but one scientist said eating the tomatoes could still be harmful - to science.

Moving swiftly to allay fears raised by a published report that toxic tomatoes could have been produced by some of the 12.5 million seeds that orbited the earth and were later distributed to schools, several officials said they would have no qualms about eating the space tomatoes.

"We have no information to suggest that it is anything other than safe for children to eat these tomatoes," said Kenneth Pederson, spokesman for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

"And I will be happy to eat the tomatoes," Pederson said at a hastily-called news conference.

The tomato seeds were launched into orbit by the space shuttle Challenger on April 6, 1984, and brought back to earth aboard the Columbia on January 20 to see what effect cosmic radiation would have on them.

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INTERNATIONAL

Seized property must be returned

BOGOTA, April 14, (AP): A senior official has said that a recent Supreme Court decision means Colombia will have to return most if not all of the property seized from suspected drug traffickers.

Judges have already returned 33 of the 430 farms, houses and other properties — worth at least \$23 million — that were confiscated by presidential decree, the official said Thursday. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Supreme Court ruling issued late last year overturned the presidential decree. The official's comments indicated the government now realises how devastating the court's decision was.

"I think this may mean the war against traffickers is lost," he said.

Some judges have taken bribes from alleged traffickers who want their farms back, and "those who resist will almost certainly be killed," the official said. The government's war on drugs that began in August when a leading presidential candidate was slain by traffickers. The government began confiscating properties and extraditing suspected drug traffickers to the United States for trial because US courts are effectively protected from the bribery, threats and assassinations of the drug cartels.

Bombings

So after the government announced its crackdown, traffickers declared a counteroffensive. Some 200 people have died so far in assassinations and bombings attributed to the drug lords' attacks.

Barco's order to seize properties of suspected traffickers has been one of his main weapons in his fight against drugs.

According to his decree, a federal court to determine the final status of the properties. Owners were to present themselves before the court and prove they had no ties to drug trafficking in order to recover their possessions.

However, the Supreme Court late last year shifted the burden of proof to the administration, ruling no property can be permanently seized unless the owner has been found guilty of a crime.

Many of the owners are charged with crimes but have not been found guilty. Traffickers have traditionally bribed or threatened Colombian judges.

Since August, 15 people have been extradited, but authorities have not captured many people considered leading traffickers, including reputed Medellin cartel leader Pablo Escobar. That drug cartel is considered among the leading groups smuggling cocaine into the United States.

"Pablo Escobar has not yet been found guilty of any crime. Legally he has a right to his properties," said the official.

The government official accused Barco of lacking foresight in his handling of the anti-drug campaign.

"Before the Supreme Court decision, I told President Barco that we should target the 50 farms that we knew belonged to Pablo Escobar," he said.

The seized farms could provide land for 20,000 peasant families if the state could carry out a programme to redistribute the property, he said.

But he said such a programme was virtually impossible.

Watchman on Star missed checkpoints

COPENHAGEN, April 14, (Agencies): The night watchman on the ferry Scandinavian Star told a court of inquiry yesterday that he missed checkpoints and took an hour-long break shortly before fire broke out, killing at least 160 people.

Crew members also said they were unable to understand emergency plans for the ship and reported seeing a suspicious man calmly walking about as passengers rushed for lifeboats.

The court is investigating the

disaster on the ferry which was sailing from Oslo to Denmark with about 500 people on board when the flames erupted early on April 7. Norwegian police suspect arson, but say they have no suspects yet.

The testimony reinforced earlier evidence from ship workers or investigators that fire drills had not been held since the ship was bought by Danish operator Dan-No Line in late March and that key safety features were missing or inoperable.

"I have seen the emergency plan, but, as I could not understand English, I could not read it," Portuguese-born Jose Santos, assistant to the ferry's engineer, told the inquiry.

Watchman Joaquim Reis said he was never shown any of the checkpoints for which he was responsible and therefore missed checking several of them.

Reis was supposed to register at 43 checkpoints by inserting a key into a portable clock, but only about 27 were checked on

each hourly round, court President Frank Poulsen said. He based his statement on a preliminary study of clock records.

Reis said: "A superior officer told me to watchman and gave me the watch and then it was up to me to find the key (at the checkpoints). I found those checkpoints myself."

Santos and a second crew member described the man who aroused their suspicions as tall, thin, about 60 years old with

greying hair. He was wearing a blue jacket and unmatching blue trousers.

"The man looked suspicious...as he went calmly around in the smoke," Santos said.

Third engineer Jose Joaquim Jesus said he also saw the man, whom he said had a narrow face and was dressed in a blue jacket and blue trousers that did not match.

Both said the man strolled the deck as passengers and crew rushed through the smoke-filled

ship to get on lifeboats.

On Thursday German-born chief engineer Heinz Stenhausser said he thought the fire must have been fuelled by a flammable liquid to spread as rapidly as it did.

Investigators said they have found at least three separate seas of the fire.

Reis also said he took a 66-minute break from his rounds without giving the required notice to ship officials. The break

ended 12.44 am, just over an hour before the fire was discovered.

"I took the time I thought was fitting. It was a break we were allowed to take," he said.

Norwegian police said yesterday that 160 bodies had been recovered from the ship and two people were still missing.

The death toll has been gradually reduced from 193 earlier in the week as police account for those reported missing.

Pope leads torchlight march

Peace procession marks Good Friday

ROME, April 14 (Agencies): Lifting a 5-foot (1.5-metre)-high cross before him, Pope John Paul II led a torchlight procession through the Colosseum last night to re-enact Christ's march to his crucifixion.

Thousands of people bearing candles in red paper cones watched the Good Friday ceremony, also broadcast to millions throughout the world. For the first time it was transmitted to the Soviet Union, the state-owned Italian Rai network reported.

"All of us who belong to the priestly people of the new covenant gaze upon the cross, with veneration and recollection," John Paul said in a brief address in Italian at the end of the procession of the via crucis, or way of the cross.

"We draw nourishment from the impenetrable mystery, which human words cannot describe."

The procession, from the Colosseum to the edge of the ancient Roman forum, evoked the torture Jesus suffered as he made his way to his crucifixion on Calvary hill in Jerusalem.

At each of the 14 stops representing the stages of Christ's suffering, men and women read meditations written by the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Michel Sabbah. They asked for spiritual blessings for modern Christians.

The Pope, wearing white robes and a crimson cape trimmed with gold, carried before him a slender black cross made of lightweight wood. He was followed by two men bearing torches and a group of cardinals and other priests.

Thousands of nuns, tourists and Romans outside the colosseum prayed and sang in Latin as the Pope walked the stations.

The Good Friday ceremonies mark the most solemn day of the year for Christians, who celebrate Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The Papal trading of marking the way of the cross was revived in 1964 by Pope Paul VI after an interruption of nearly a century following the creation of the modern Italian state.

Among the 14 "stations of the cross" are stops marking the three times Jesus fell under the weight of the cross.

In a Good Friday message issued earlier to Maronite Catholic Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir, the Pope issued a new appeal for a halt to the "fratricidal" fighting in Lebanon.

"The drama of Lebanon must end...Lebanon must live again," said the telegram, which came on the 15th anniversary of the start of Lebanon's civil war.

The Pontiff also celebrated a ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica on Friday afternoon. He prayed for a variety of groups, including Jews.

Peace march

In New York about 1,000 people, many carrying crosses, walked along 42nd street on Good Friday to protest military spending and draw attention to the needs of the poor and oppressed.

Sixty-eight of the marchers were issued summonses for trespassing at the riverside research institute, where they blocked the doors of the building, said officer Hugo Barry, a police spokesman.

One man, Paul Zulkowicz of Brooklyn, was issued a desk appearance ticket for trespassing and resisting arrest, Barry said.

The organizer of the march, Pax Christi Metro New York, a local branch of the Catholic peace movement, said the institute was a think tank for the defense department that was researching space-based weapons. The institute refused to comment on its activities.

Re-enactment Hundreds of thousands of Roman Catholic faithful turned out on Good Friday for the annual re-enactment of Jesus' crucifixion at Cerro de La Estrella, Mexico City, and ancient Indian ceremonial site.

The two-day re-enactment, which has been celebrated annually in Iztapalapa for the last 146 years, was acted out by 2,700 performers representing everyone from the Virgin Mary and Mary Magdalen to the pharisees.

The actors who portray Christ's last days on earth were protected from the devoted crowds by 3,600 police as they started with the last supper on Thursday.

SA cops tear gas anti-drug marchers

JOHANNESBURG, April 14, (AP): Police fired tear-gas yesterday to disperse some 1,000 Muslims protesting growing drug use in their neighbourhood, witnesses said.

The marchers included mixed-race men, women and children who gathered at a mosque in Salt River, outside Cape Town, with placards that read "we don't want drugs." The protesters said drug use and drug dealing had become a pervasive problem in the area.

Police told organisers they lacked the manpower to protect the demonstrators and would have to break up the march.

The demonstrators decided to proceed, but after travelling one block police fired at least 12 rounds of tear-gas, witnesses said.

The crowd quickly dispersed. Later, the marchers regrouped at the mosque and accused several local youths on the streets of selling drugs. There were several heated exchanges, but no injuries or arrests were reported.

In another development, African National Council leader Nelson Mandela said yesterday the white-led government was not doing enough to control the police.

Mandela, speaking in the northeastern town of Likazi, said police took at every grievance and demonstration (by blacks) as an act of war.

He said police action against peaceful demonstrations was damaging the climate for negotiations between blacks and whites on a new constitution.

The ANC postponed ground-breaking talks with the government after a police shooting last month that left at least 11 protesters dead. The discussions have been rescheduled for May 2-4.

"I told President F.W. de Klerk at our last meeting that... if one white person was killed by police, white South Africa would shout at the top of its voice," Mandela said. If a number of whites "were killed by police, there would be a mass upheaval and the government would fall."

Mandela, addressing 1,500 members of the militant South African Youth Congress, called on young blacks to be disciplined and work to end faction fighting that has claimed hundreds of lives in recent years.

Meanwhile, a visiting European Community delegation met yesterday in Johannesburg with the Pan Africanist Congress, a rival of the ANC.

The delegation, led by Irish Foreign Minister Gerard Collins, held separate talks Thursday with De Klerk and leaders of the pro-apartheid conservative party.



A child took part in a protest against drug abuse and the activities of drug dealers in the coloured (mixed race) suburb of Salt River in Cape Town on Friday. The protest, by about 1000 residents of the area was broken up by riot police who fired teargas at the residents to disperse them. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tennis star US student slain

MILTON, Massachusetts April 14, (AP): The slaying of a high school tennis star who police believe may have been killed because he informed on gang members has stunned this peaceful suburb.

The killing of Charles Hardison, 16, was only the second in 20 years in this affluent town just south of Boston's inner city, Milton police said.

"Charles had the personality that every man in the world would like to have," said Jim Smith, who coached Hardison in tennis for the past eight years. "If you could bottle it, you could make million dollars. He was destined to be a leader."

Hardison's mother, Adlene, went to wake him on Thursday morning but found his bed had not been slept in. She found him in the basement with four gunshot wounds, three to the head, police said. There was no sign of a struggle, robbery or forced entry, leading investigators to believe that Hardison knew his killer, police said.

Mrs. Hardison had arrived home the previous night and found her son's keys in the lock. Neighbours said he often forgot to remove his keys from the lock. Mrs. Hardison apparently assumed he'd gone to sleep.

Students at Milton High School, where Hardison was the top-ranked tennis player, said the shooting may have been connected to an incident last year in which members of a Boston gang crashed a party given by a friend of Hardison's. The party later turned violent.

Hardison, reportedly angered because one of his friends was injured, co-operated with police, pointing out the home of the girlfriend of an alleged gang member, some students said.

A Milton police officer said yesterday that the department was investigating the possibility of a gang link in the killing.

Big Mac under attack

'Burgers have too much fat'

WASHINGTON, April 14, (Reuters): The Big Mac is under attack. McDonald's Corp, the world's largest fast food company, should be sitting pretty with yearly sales of more than \$17 billion and about five billion burgers.

Instead, full page advertisements in newspapers across the United States are accusing the fast food giant — whose "Big Mac attack" slogan touts its highly popular double decker burger — of contributing to "the poisoning of America."

"McDonald's, your hamburgers have too much fat," the advertisements charge in large black type. "We are calling on McDonald's and all fast food restaurants to reduce the fat content of their hamburger meat by 10 per cent as their contribution toward lowering cholesterol levels for Americans," the captions say.

The advertisements were placed by Phil Sokolof, an Omaha businessman and multimillionaire who has been crusading for a healthier American diet since 1985.

Sokolof, who suffered a heart attack 23 years ago, has halved his cholesterol count from 300 and has spent about \$2.5 million of his own money over the past five years on promoting cholesterol testing and heart-healthy foods.

He insists his latest campaign is not directed at McDonald's alone, "but McDonald's is the leading purveyor of fat in the world. They serve 22 million people a day and the great percentage of their items contain saturated fat or cholesterol," Sokolof said in a telephone interview.

Growing medical evidence links a diet high in

saturated fat and cholesterol to a greater risk of high blood pressure and heart attacks.

Sokolof is not alone in taking aim at fast food restaurants. This week a coalition of health organisations and scientists called on hamburger chains, including McDonald's and Burger King, to offer their patrons healthier food and stop cooking chips in a fat blend made with beef tallow, one of the most highly saturated of fats.

"We are troubled by many of your products, but especially by the unnecessary use of shortening made largely from beef fat," said a letter from groups including the American Heart Association, American Public Health Association and nutrition watchdog group Centre for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI).

Under pressure from CSPI, Hardee's and Arby's restaurants have already dropped beef tallow for their French fries.

McDonald's and Burger King have stopped frying their chicken, fish and pies in beef fat, but neither has yet yielded on the French fries front, arguing they don't taste as good when fried in vegetable oil.

Burger King also offers a grilled chicken sandwich while McDonald's has started selling salads, non-cholesterol non-fat apple-bran muffins, reduced-fat milkshakes, low-fat frozen yoghurt and sorbets.

"These changes likely will reverberate throughout the industry, but fast food restaurants are still a long way from being health food joints," said CSPI director Michael Jacobson.

Man robbed on NY subway train shoots assailant to death: police

NEW YORK, April 14, (AP): A man who was robbed while riding a subway train shot and killed one of the three men who accosted him, then fled at the next station, police said yesterday.

The robbery was committed late Thursday by three men in their teens or early 20s who were among a group of about 18 people travelling together, transit authority police spokesman Al O'Leary said.

The shooting bore certain similarities to the Bernhard Goetz case in New York six

years ago, in which Goetz shot four youths he said were about to mug him. Like the Goetz case, the unidentified robbery victim was white and his assailants were black.

However, O'Leary cautioned against making comparisons. "The major difference is Goetz believed he was going to become a crime victim, and in cases since, the people who reacted had already been victimized. Very different situations in the eyes of the law."

The trouble occurred about 11 pm on a No. 4 train heading from Brooklyn to Manhattan.

The robbers, armed with a retractable razor used for opening boxes, approached the man "grabbed him, lifted him up, went through his pockets, took his wallet and threw him back on the seat," O'Leary said. "He pulled a gun and fired three times."

One bullet hit one of the robbers in the chest, the spokesman said. It was uncer-

tain where the other bullets went. The man who was shot was identified by the medical examiner's office as Ricky Pickett, 25, of Brooklyn. He had been arrested five times for robbery, according to police sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

When the train made its next stop, the shooter, believed to be in his late 40s or early 50s, got out, as did many of the young men travelling together, but it was not known whether they were fleeing or chasing the man, he said.

America

Cop's wife shoots woman, self: A police officer shot at a shooting at a beauty parlour discovered his wife had used his handgun to shoot the shop's owner and then kill herself.

Judy Gillette critically wounded the owner, Shari Carrano, before fatally shooting herself in the head Thursday, police said in Monrovia, Connecticut. Carrano was in critical condition Friday at St Vincent's Medical Centre in Bridgeport, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Lt Terry Gillette, a 24-year veteran of the police force and the shift commander on Thursday, was led away from the scene by another officer and is in seclusion, police chief Robert Wesche said. (AP)

One year since winery slayings: It's been a year since authorities found the seven bodies. And that's too long for prosecutor Peter Bumerts, who is eager to try Ramon Salcido for the April 14, 1989, bloodbath in San Francisco.

Killed in a series of shootings and slaying attacks were Salcido's wife, two of their three daughters, his wife's mother, his wife's two younger sisters and a co-worker at the northern California winery where Salcido worked.

The third daughter, 3-year-old Carmina, was found in a garbage dump next to the bodies of her sisters. Like her sisters, she had her throat slashed.

But Carmina survived, getting investigators from her hospital bed. "Dad hurt me." Her grandfather says she's doing well today.

"It's amazing that it is a year and still there's no trial," said Bumerts. (AP)

American priorities changing:

More Americans than ever are worried about the environment and the earth — so worried that they will recycle and pay higher taxes, according to a new poll released in Washington on Friday.

With Earth Day April 22 coming next Sunday, the poll carried out by "USA Today" newspaper reflected the changing priorities of Americans. (Kuna)

Bush, an improvement over Reagan:

After more than a generation of unswerving loyalty to the Democratic Party and its leaders, black Americans have given George Bush the highest level of sustained approval for any Republican president in 30 years, according to a New York Times/CBS News poll released in Washington Friday.

Many blacks make it clear that their approval largely reflects a feeling of relief that Bush has given them no reason to oppose him. They said they find Bush "a vast improvement" on his predecessor Ronald Reagan. (Kuna)

Shuttle investigations: Federal investigators are examining allegations that a Florida company provided faulty parts for the space shuttle and several weapons systems, the New York Times reported Saturday.

The Times reported that Impela Electronics Inc. of Tampa, Florida, is being investigated on charges it switched labels on resistors used to regulate currents in electronic control systems. That resulted in the installation of inferior resistors, the newspaper said. (AP)

Northrop Corp. plans cutbacks: Northrop Corp., one of the largest defence contractors in the United States, says it is cutting its costs to try to ensure the continuation of the \$75-billion Stealth bomber programme.

The bombers, which are made of advanced materials to elude radar, have faced stiff criticism in the US Congress because of their high cost. (AP)

Integration, disintegration: Street violence over the fatal shooting of a black teenager by a white policeman has strained race relations in Teaneck, New Jersey which has prided itself on racial harmony for decades.

Teenagers, mostly blacks, roamed city streets Thursday after a night of smashing windows and overturning cars. The Wednesday night violence broke out after a peaceful candlelight protest over Tuesday's death of 15-year-old Phillip Pannell of River Edge. (AP)

Obscenity dispute divides city: Large crowds visiting a Cincinnati museum being prosecuted for showing sexually graphic photographs reveal that for many residents, this city's clean-cut, conservative reputation is an unwanted burden.

City police last week charged the contemporary Arts Centre and its director with pandering obscenity and other charges when the museum opened an exhibit by the late Robert Mapplethorpe. (AP)

Hubble contamination minimal: The \$1.5-billion Hubble space telescope will get slightly more dusty as it awaits a new launch date on space shuttle Discovery, but the amount of contamination is expected to be minimal, NASA said Friday.

"We've done all the cautionary things that we can," said Fred Woitalk, a NASA project manager. "But we're going to get some degradation. Some particles are going to come into the Hubble that we just can't avoid."

Scientists want no more than 5 per cent of the surface of Hubble's 94-inch (239-centimetre) mirror, the finest ever made, covered with dust or other debris once the telescope reaches orbit. Woitalk said. (AP)

Indonesian satellite back in orbit: A \$60 million Indonesian satellite lost in space and rescued by shuttle astronauts six years ago was fired back into orbit Friday by a Delta rocket in the final chapter of an unprecedented space success story.



Miss Universe

Competitors prepare to compete in the 1990 Miss Universe Pageant. From left are Miss Sweden Linda Leason, Miss Finland Tiina Viero, and Miss Norway Mona Grudi. They will be joined by 52 other contestants from around the world when the show is aired today. (Reuters wirephoto)

The successful Friday launch of the Palapa B-2R satellite brought the used spacecraft full circle and further cemented close ties between Indonesia and the United States, which has now launched six relay stations for the Pacific island nation since 1976.

"All right," said launch commentator Ray Adams after confirmation the satellite was in the proper orbit. "It was a great success." (UPI)

Fuelled by Irritation

Iacocca hints at political foray

DETROIT, Michigan, April 14, (AP): Chrysler Corp. chairman Lee Iacocca says he would expect to win, but a third-party presidential bid might give Washington politicians the gun-start they need to take America's turn positive again.

The auto magnate said his presidential musings were fuelled by irritation over Washington's inability to increase exports, encourage savings, curb consumption and boost productivity.

Iacocca, whose contract with Chrysler runs out at the end of 1991, has been asked in the past to consider running for office. He denied he was making firm plans to form a third party.

But Iacocca noted the "worldwide" shift toward "little" Rep. John A. Anderson, the political establishment in 1980, when his third-party candidacy drew 7 per cent of the vote.

"If I got 25 per cent it would deliver a message so clear they'd all come back to sanity," Iacocca said Thursday.

"I would like to be more than an irritant...I don't want to go down as the guy who was always complaining," Iacocca said. "At some point you say: 'Be part of the solution.'"

Alarm over Guatemalan violence:

President George Bush has told the government of Guatemala that the United States is alarmed over the high level of renewed political violence there, the state department said Friday.

Bush's message to Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo was delivered by US Ambassador Thomas Strook following his recent recall to Washington for consultations on the violence, said Richard Boucher, the state department's deputy spokesman.

Rightist death squads widely believed to be linked to the military have kidnapped and slain thousands of Guatemalans.

Meanwhile, leftist rebels have been fighting for power in Guatemala for more than four decades.

Mutual Support, a human rights group, estimates that 40,000 people have disappeared, probably kidnapped and slain for political motives, in the 20-year period ending in 1988. It said an average of 200 people disappeared every month in 1981-82. (AP)

Refuses to register young 'Rambo': A 5-month-old boy in the northeastern city of Salvador is named because a judge refused to register him as "Rambo," the newspaper O Globo reported Friday.

Mirando de Moura Eugenio decided to show his devotion to the macho, machine-gun-toting movie character by naming his first son after him, according to the newspaper.

But Judge Luiz Fernando Brito refused to register the name, citing a Brazilian law that forbids parents to give children exotic names that might cause them embarrassment in the future. O Globo said.

Because baby Rambo still has no legal name, his mother suggested a compromise by naming the child after Sylvester Stallone, the actor who became famous for his Rambo roles. O Globo said.

Bush, Thatcher warn Moscow

Economic blockade could harm East-West ties

HAMILTON, April 14, (UPI): US President George Bush and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, concluding one day of talks on the Resort Island, warned Moscow its threat to impose a partial economic blockade on independent-minded Lithuania could harm East-West relations.

After a round of golf today, Bush planned to fly to Camp David, Maryland, to spend the rest of the Easter weekend with his family.

Bush and Thatcher emerged from discussions on the Western

alliance yesterday with a warning to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev that force is an unacceptable response to Lithuania's bid to break from the Soviet grip of communism.

Thatcher and Bush based their responses on a report from the Soviet News Agency Tass, which said Gorbachev had threatened to cut some supplies to Lithuania if the republic did not rescind various independence laws in two days.

It was the toughest Soviet response since Lithuania declared independence on March 11.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters last night "it was less certain now what happened," referring to the clarity and substance of the ultimatum reported by Tass. "What we are trying to do is sort out what happened and what it means."

At a news conference earlier in the day, Bush said the news was "deeply disturbing" and warned the Kremlin that "now is no time for escalation. It's time for talk." The president added that he and Thatcher had made it "crystal clear" to Gorbachev "that coercion, escalation is not the way to go. The way to go is dialogue."

Thatcher's remarks on the consequence of Soviet force in Lithuania cut a little deeper. "We have a duty to say what we think," said Thatcher. "We've come a long way in relations between the Soviet Union and the free world... (which) could not continue if the Soviet Union were to resolve this by force."

Lectures

In Moscow, Gorbachev also told the lawmakers he would resolve the crisis in Lithuania by peaceful means, but without "lectures" or "interference" from Washington.

On that point, Bush said, "I don't view that as a hostile comment but I view it as a reiteration of his well-known position," Bush said.

The Bush-Thatcher discussions touched on a number of issues, many related to Bush's scheduled May 30-June 3 summit with Gorbachev in the United States.

"We discussed just about everything and I think we agree on just about everything," said Thatcher, who also has a June meeting set with Gorbachev.

Among the topics discussed were German reunification and the outlook for continuing arms control negotiations. Both leaders said they remained in agreement that a unified Germany should be part of NATO. The Soviets would like to see Germany as a part of NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

On other subjects: — Bush and Thatcher talked about, but had no further information on, speculation that Iraq had attempted to obtain a large gun capable of firing chemical or nuclear weapons over long distances.

— The two leaders discussed the British government's decision to lift some sanctions against South Africa. The US has not lifted any of the economic penalties it imposed on South Africa for backing apartheid.

For Thatcher, the meeting with Bush was opportune: A chance to buttress her standing domestically, where she has fallen to an all-time low in popularity and been the object of scorn by a massive anti-tax protest, and abroad, where her stubbornly independent foreign policy has increasingly isolated Britain.

For Bush, who readily lent his support to the prime minister, offering even to travel to London if she desired, the quick trip to the pastel-colored resort was just the latest in a series of diplomatic adventures.

The president plans to meet next week with French President Francois Mitterrand in Key Largo, Fla., and said yesterday that European security would be a main topic.

Forgiving

Bush also said yesterday that he was inclined to forgive the East Germans for their role in the murder of millions of Jews during the Holocaust.

The East German legislature accepted responsibility Thursday for the Nazi atrocities during World War II.

(See Page 6)

Bid to rename Czech fails

PRAGUE, April 14, (AP): A new version of Czechoslovakia's official name, tentatively approved by Parliament leadership Tuesday, was rejected by 6 of 18 parliamentary commissions, the daily Mlada Fronta reported yesterday.

The name approved in principle by parliamentary leaders was "Czech and Slovak Federative Republic."

In January, President Vaclav Havel proposed to drop the word "socialist" from the "Czechoslovak Socialist Republic" to symbolise the country's shedding of its communist past.

However, Slovaks, representing one-third of Czechoslovakia's population, demanded that their identity be specified in the new name.

After weeks of stormy discussions and growing tensions between Czechs and Slovaks, Parliament renamed the country "Czechoslovak Federative Republic" on March 23, allowing the Slovaks to hyphenate the name.

However, thousands of Slovaks demonstrated the next day in Bratislava, the Slovak capital, protesting the new name and demanding an independent Slovak state.

Havel then called a meeting of Czech and Slovak leaders at the presidential residence at Lany last Friday, to negotiate a new name which would satisfy both sides.

The new proposal was to be discussed by Parliament's next plenary session set for April 18.

But debate in the commissions Thursday showed there is little hope that the three-fifths majority vote needed for a constitutional law to be passed will be reached.

It is expected that the Parliament, busy with passing dozens of laws needed for the transition of the country's economy to free-market mechanisms, will hold at least two more plenary sessions before the elections on June 8-9.

■ The formerly top secret files kept by police for years on dissidents like Vaclav Havel and Jiri Dienstbier were handed over to representatives of their Charter 77 human rights organisation yesterday.

Havel, now president, Dienstbier, now foreign minister, Petr Uhl, now director of the state news agency, and dozens of other dissidents were kept under almost constant surveillance for 13 years before a peaceful revolution overthrew communist rule in November.

■ Hungary: The Hungarian Democratic Forum, the biggest vote-getter in the nation's first free elections in 43 years, yesterday began government-building talks with the Christian Democrats, the state news agency MTI reported.

In the vote last Sunday, the conservative Democratic Forum gained 165 of 386 parliamentary seats, 29 seats short of an absolute majority.

Forum said yesterday it expected to form Hungary's first non-communist government for four decades by mid-May.

Forum vice-president Sandor Keresztes said a national congress on Thursday authorised party leaders to seek a conservative coalition with the Independent Smallholders' Party (ISP) and the Christian Democratic People's Party (CDPP).

"We can envisage the formation of a new government with great likelihood in mid-May, obviously if no unforeseeable difficulties arise," Keresztes told a news conference.

The centre-right Forum emerged victorious this month from free elections which foreshadowed the end of rule by the Socialist Party, founded last October to succeed the Communist Party.



Leaders fly kites

US President George Bush and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher interrupted talks on global issues Friday to do something their critics have often suggested — go fly kites.

Kite-flying on Good Friday has become a tradition in Bermuda.

The two leaders greeted a group of 20 children who had made their own kites for the occasion.

Bush and Thatcher were presented with red, white and blue kites.

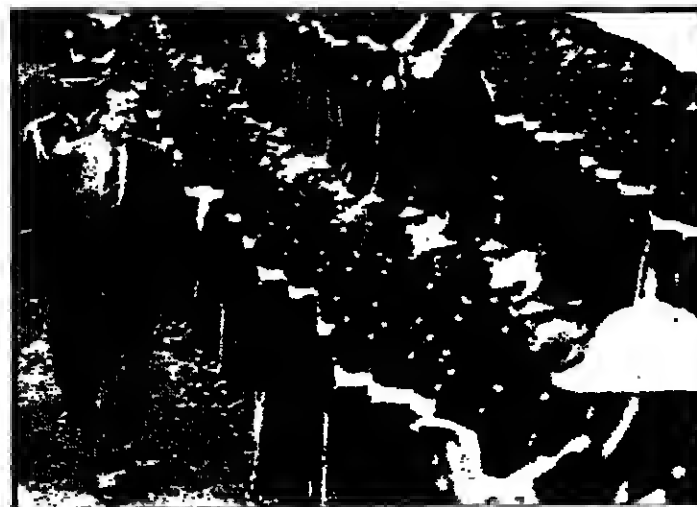
They then took the string of kites already aloft in 30-mile-per-hour (50 kph) winds.

While the two leaders agree on many major issues, they chose differing styles of kite-flying.

Bush used the pumping approach while Thatcher exhibited the more gentle easing of the string. En route to Bermuda, Bush told reporters that he keeps a "large inventory of kites."

"I'm often told to go fly my kite," he said.

In the picture Thatcher flies a kite on the grounds of the Governors House, where Bush and Thatcher held their talks.



Bush reviews the honour guard after being welcomed by Thatcher to Bermuda on Good Friday. The two leaders are holding a day-long series of talks in Bermuda. (Reuters wirephoto)

Terrorism must stop

Bush, Thatcher vow

HAMILTON, Bermuda, April 14, (Reuters): President George Bush vowed again yesterday that the United States and Great Britain would work together to halt "bastardly terrorist acts" such as the 1988 bombing of a Pan American jet over Lockerbie, Scotland.

The accident killed all 259 passengers and crew aboard Pan Am Flight 103 and 11 others on the ground. Investigators have not yet determined who was responsible for planting a bomb aboard the aircraft, which was en route from London to New York.

Bush, speaking to reporters after a day-long meeting in Bermuda with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, said he was moved by a petition presented to him by two family members of victims aboard the ill-fated jet.

1981.

One justification for the ban pointed to rules prohibiting citizens from holding hard currency worth more than 4,000 Hungarian forints (\$60).

If they were sure to lose, it would be okay, but what would happen if they won? Budapest casino manager Sandor Radics said in an interview last year before democratic revolutions swept Eastern Europe.

"And it could cause trouble for us if citizens from other socialist countries could take larger sums of hard currency home with them."

The real reason for the ban was Marxist theory.

And now that communism is on the retreat all over Eastern Europe, attitudes are changing.

In February, Hungary granted its citizens the chance to get rich quick through a hard currency lottery set up with Austria.

"The biggest ideological barrier in the past was that (gambling) was unearned income," said Sandor Borzemissa, spokesman for the lottery venture. "Now we're over this."

The chance to reduce Hungary's problematic budget deficit might also have something to do with it.

Pro-monarchy people protest Bucharest 'visa ban'

A 'grave act', says exiled king

GENEVA, April 14, (Agencies): Exiled King Michael of Romania said yesterday the new Bucharest leadership committed a "grave act" by barring him from visiting his native country over Easter for the first time since 1948.

He defended his plan in a communique one day after a last-minute withdrawal of his Romanian visa forced an indefinite postponement of the visit that was to begin Thursday.

"The decision of the Bucharest authorities prohibiting entry into my country is a grave act," the French-language statement said. "Those who committed it

will have to bear the full responsibility before the Romanian people and international public opinion."

The provisional Romanian government cancelled the visas for him, his wife, Queen Anne, and his eldest daughter, Princess Margarita, only hours before they were to leave for Bucharest on a direct Swissair flight.

The government acted after urging in vain that the visit be put off until after the May 20 elections to prevent possible disturbances.

Prime Minister Petre Roman said in a French television interview that the visit evidently

had a "political character."

"I want to reiterate that I chose the feast of Easter for this first return to my country after 42 years of exile because this feast has a sacred character," Michael said in the communique.

"The feast symbolizes resurrection and hope for the Romanian people after so much suffering," it added. "I also wanted to honour the memory of all Romanians who died for the restoration of a true democracy in my country."

Michael, who was forced to abdicate by a Soviet-installed government Dec 30, 1947, told a press conference after the over-

row of communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu that he was prepared to return to Romania as head of a constitutional monarchy. But he indicated that this would have to be subject to a national referendum.

■ Hundreds of pro-monarchy demonstrators staged a rally in central Bucharest yesterday and vowed to hold daily protests until exiled former King Michael is allowed to return to Romania.

The demonstration was triggered by the interim government's last-minute decision Thursday to bar Michael and his family from travelling to Bucharest.

Charges filed

Hoxha triggered religious hatred

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, April 14, (AP): A Kosovo public prosecutor yesterday filed criminal charges against former Yugoslav vice-president Fadil Hoxha for allegedly fanning ethnic Albanian nationalism in the troubled province, the Tanjug news agency reported.

The public prosecutor in Prizren, a Kosovo town near the Albanian border, reportedly said Hoxha, an ethnic Albanian, "triggered nationalist, racial and religious hatred" in November 1986 when he publicly made "offensive remarks" about non-Albanian women.

He faces a prison term ranging from one to 10 years if found guilty and convicted.

Hoxha, now retired and formerly a close associate of the late Yugoslav president Josip Broz Tito, was the country's vice-president in the late 1970s.

He was ousted from membership in the ruling Communist Party in September 1987 for his alleged support of Albanian nationalism and demands for greater autonomy of the predominantly ethnic Albanian province of Kosovo. Kosovo is administratively

part of Serbia, Yugoslavia's largest republic.

Hoxha was the centre of a media campaign in Serbia and angry demonstrations in October 1987 by Serbian women living in Kosovo for allegedly offensive remarks he made about them during an unofficial gathering of reserve army officers.

Published reports alleged Hoxha recommended Serbian women be allowed to solicit as prostitutes in Kosovo to guard against what newspapers claimed were increasing incidents of sexual assault by Albanian men against non-Albanian women in the province.

In a statement, Hoxha later said his remarks had been misinterpreted and torn out of context by the Serbian media.

Kosovo has been the scene of nationalist protests by ethnic Albanian majority since 1981, provoking a backlash by the Serbian minority. Serbian police and the military are used to maintain order in the province.

In February last year, Serbia amended its constitution, widely curbing Kosovo's previously enjoyed autonomy.

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Hungarians allowed to gamble in their own casinos

BUDAPEST, April 14, (Reuters): In another sign of communism's demise, Hungarians will soon be able to gamble in casinos now reserved for Westerners.

The state news agency MTI reported on Thursday that restrictions on casino gambling will be lifted from Easter Sunday, a week after the country's first free election since 1945 brought a rightist-dominated parliament to power.

Marxist ideology regarded gambling as immoral. Hungarians and fellow East Europeans were banned from trying their luck at baccarat or roulette when the first of Hungary's four casinos opened in

1981.

One justification for the ban pointed to rules prohibiting citizens from holding hard currency worth more than 4,000 Hungarian forints (\$60).

If they were sure to lose, it would be okay, but what would happen if they won? Budapest casino manager Sandor Radics said in an interview last year before democratic revolutions swept Eastern Europe.

"And it could cause trouble for us if citizens from other socialist countries could take larger sums of hard currency home with them."

The real reason for the ban was Marxist theory.

Easter weekend trips Germans jam border

WEST BERLIN, April 14, (AP): Tens of thousands of Germans from East and West were jamming border crossings for Easter weekend trips while government officials haggled over the exchange rate for the all-important currency union.

East Germany's new finance minister, Walter Romberg, was quoted in an interview Friday as saying the West German government must understand that East Germans need a one-to-one exchange of money in the monetary union planned for July 1.

In the interview with the Bonn-based Die Welt newspaper, Romberg said he could foresee initially limiting the one-to-one exchange to salaries and retirement pay, and for savings accounts up to 7,000 marks.

Seven thousand East German marks would equal \$4,100 at a one-to-one exchange rate — although that amount of the East German currency is now only officially worth about \$1.370.

Average salaries in East Germany are about 1,000 marks a month or 196 dollars at the official rate. Retirement pay is about half the sum in the heavily subsidized state.

Converting larger sums to West German marks could be delayed until East Germany's economy has stepped up production. Die Welt quoted Romberg as saying.

Officials of West Germany's Central Bank, the Bundesbank, have proposed an exchange rate of one-to-one for savings accounts of up to 2,000 East German marks — or \$1,175. For all other exchange, the Bundesbank has proposed a rate of two East German marks for one West German mark.

Meanwhile, East Germany's new government headed by Lothar de Maiziere has asked passport checks to deal with a crush of holiday travellers.

Border guards barely glanced at passports held out car windows, smiling and waving long lines of cars through without checking the documents.

Bumper-to-bumper traffic stretching up to 70 kms (42 miles) was reported near the West German city of Hanover. At the Helmsdorf border crossing, police reported traffic moving slowly and backed up for 50 kms (30 miles).

For many Germans, it was the first chance in decades to spend Easter with relatives on the other side.

West Germany's ARD television reported late Friday that some travellers waited up to four hours to get gasoline at service stations along routes in East Germany because of the crush of West German visitors.

Meanwhile, West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher called for a quick meeting with his new East German counterpart, Markus Meckel, to prepare for a united position in upcoming international talks on unification.

The talks will include the United States, the Soviets, Britain and France as well as both Germans.

Genscher, in an interview with the Cologne Express newspaper, said there was a "highest measure of agreement" between the two German states, and that "with such a common interest we Germans could be the architects of an undivided Europe."

Nato membership of a unified Germany is unacceptable for the



Congratulations

Christian Democrat Lothar de Maiziere (left) is hugged by Communist Party leader Gregor Gysi after he was elected as East Germany's first non-communist prime minister in East Berlin on April 12. (Reuters wirephoto)

German unification 'Surge of terrorism'

WEST BERLIN, April 14, (AP): West German officials are bracing for a surge of terrorism and right-wing extremism as a result of the coming unification with the East, published reports said yesterday.

Cabinet ministers from East and West Germany were preparing for talks as early as next week to meet the goal of a "monetary, social and economic union" by July 1. Those steps alone would take both states well on the way to unification.

Since the two nations began coming closer last November, there have been growing concerns that both the far left and the far right would try to take advantage of the changes.

In an interview with the respected Bonn newspaper Die Welt, the head of West Germany's criminal investigations office said the leftist red army faction terror gang views the unification process as a "wide open field."

"So it is conceivable that the progress in unification also presents a potential danger," Die Welt quoted Hans-Ludwig Zacherl as saying. "The need to get into the headlines could encourage the red army faction to view the current time as ripe for attacks."

Zacherl said his office, the Bundeskriminalamt, had already been in contact with its counterparts in East Germany.

The red army faction, after a series of notorious attacks and murders in the 1970s, remains in officials' eyes a continuing threat. The latest major attack attributed to the gang was the Nov 30 murder of Alfred Herrhausen, the No. 1 banker in West Germany.

Zacherl also warned that the turmoil in East Germany could bring an increase in organised crime and drug-trafficking, which were virtually unknown under the hard-line communist regime.

In Hamburg, the respected news magazine Der Spiegel reported West German counter-intelligence officials were stepping up surveillance of the far right.

Soviet Union, a Foreign Ministry spokesman told a briefing in Moscow on Friday.

Yuri Gerasimov made this comment in reply to a question about statements by the new prime minister of the German Democratic Republic, Lothar de Maiziere.

East Germany's first freely elected interior minister on Friday said his country must get rid of its flag in the process of unification with West Germany, a major newspaper reported.

In an interview with the Hamburg-based Bild newspaper, Peter-Michael Diestel, who was confirmed as the new government's interior



Pulitzer couple

Sherly Wudunn (left) and Nicholas Kristof of the New York Times, a husband and wife team, get congratulatory phone calls from their head office on April 13, after winning the Pulitzer prize for foreign reporting for their coverage of China's suppression of pro-democracy protest. (Reuters wirephoto)

Chernobyl telethon: The Soviet peace fund will try to raise funds world-wide for victims of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident with a telethon on April 26, the fourth anniversary of the disaster, chess master Anatoly Karpov said Friday.

Karpov, the fund's chairman, said the 24-hour telethon will be broadcast from Moscow on Soviet state television, which is negotiating with American networks about the possibility of showing it in the United States as well. (AP)

Rev. Rotondi dies: The Rev. Virginio Rotondi, a Jesuit who helped handle the Vatican's post-war relations with the Italian political world and founded an international spiritual movement, died Friday at age 78.

The exact cause of death was not disclosed. (AP)

Italian actor, director dies: Luis Trenker, whose film-making career spanned five decades, died in his sleep early Friday at a hospital in Bolzano, his family said. He was 97.

Born in 1892 in south Tyrol of German parents, Trenker served as a pilot in World War I before he embarked on his film career. He made his acting debut in 1921 in Arnold Fanck's "Marcel of Ski."

In the early 1930s Trenker became a film director and writer, with his first film, "Mountains in Flames" (1932), inspired by his wartime experiences. One of Trenker's best-known works was "Il Figlio Perduto" (the lost son) made in 1934 and set in New York. (AP)

Gorbachev threatens to cut Lithuania supplies

Vilnius leaders presenting tough front to face ultimatum

MOSCOW, April 14, (AP): Lithuania's leaders are presenting a tough front to face President Mikhail Gorbachev's threat to cut off crucial supplies to the republic.

Gorbachev, in a letter to the Lithuanian government that was published by the official news agency Tass yesterday, said the product shipments would be stopped if Lithuania did not back away from its pro-independence stance within two days.

Gorbachev did not specify what products would be halted but said they were items the Soviet Union could export to other countries for hard currency.

Gorbachev already has moved to isolate and disarm the Baltic republic and refuses to start negotiations until the independence declaration by its Parliament, known as the Supreme Council, is overturned.

Western advisers to the Lithuanian government have said the republic's economic survival is tied to its ability to maintain its trade with the Soviet Union.

The new threat by Gorbachev was contained in a letter addressed to the Lithuanian government. A text was released by the Tass news agency and reported during the nightly television newscast "Vremya."

Lithuania has the capacity to supply almost all the electricity it needs.

But in addition to being dependent on the Soviet Union for oil and natural gas, it relies on it for repair parts and fertiliser.

The letter, also signed by Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, said the situation in Lithuania "tightens into an ever tighter knot, assuming the nature of a political dead end."

The letter charged Lithuania's leadership "continues to adopt legislative acts and decisions that set Lithuania in opposition to other (Soviet) republics and the Soviet Union as a whole."

It accused Lithuania's Parliament of "anti-constitutional actions" including halting conscription into the Soviet army; trying to seize property of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union; and enacting a law April 5 establishing identity cards for Lithuanians "that discriminates against Soviet citizens" in the republic.

If Lithuania's leaders don't rescind those actions "within the next two days, instructions will be given to stop supplies to the Lithuanian SSR from other constituent republics of those categories of products that are sold on external markets for freely convertible currency," the letter said.

In the month since Lithuania declared its independence, the Kremlin has alternated between making threats and conciliatory offers. Soviet troops have occupied some buildings in the capital Vilnius, and conscripts who refused to serve in the Red Army have been forcibly detained.

The letter did not specifically mention the Soviet demand that Lithuania rescind its declaration of independence, although the Kremlin has called that action unconstitutional.

It said the republic's Parliament and cabinet should "restore the republic's position to that of March 10, 1990" — the day before independence was declared.

"Other constituent republics are asking quite aptly why they should continue supplying products to Lithuania at the expense of their own needs, while the latter's secessionist agencies continue their anti-constitutional actions and disregard the rightful interests of the integral national economy and the country's citizens," the letter said.

Landsbergis said he expected the materials to be cut off gradually, not all at once, according to Edward Tuskenis of the Lithuanian legislature's information office, who spoke by telephone from Vilnius.

"Over these two days, we will not do anything special," Landsbergis was quoted as saying. "If Moscow will demand hard currency for those products, that will mean Moscow considers us a foreign state."

The Soviet chief of staff has cancelled his planned US trip, it was disclosed yesterday by American officials. They say it comes amid growing influence of the Soviet military on the USSR's policies in Lithuania and elsewhere.

MOSCOW, April 14, (UPI): Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze warned in an interview aired yesterday that the Soviet Union will again fall prey to a dictator if President Mikhail Gorbachev's reform programme fails. Shevardnadze also said he nearly resigned in December when Soviet lawmakers sharply criticised the military crackdown that left 21 people dead in Tbilisi, the capital of his native Georgian Republic.

Shevardnadze's stark appraisal of the possible future facing the Soviet Union was broadcast Friday on "Vzglyad," a popular weekly television programme on political affairs.

"If perestroika does not succeed, there will be a dictatorship," Shevardnadze said. "I do not see any other possibilities." Shevardnadze's assessment contradicted the view of many Western analysts, who have said that Gorbachev's reforms have moved the country too far forward to permit a reversal to totalitarian government.

Shevardnadze made his comments during a series of interviews with "Vzglyad" correspondents aboard his plane while he travelled in Africa last month to observe the establishment of Namibian independence.

The tall, white-haired foreign minister became visibly emotional when he was asked whether he had ever considered resigning.

"There was such a moment," he said. "It was when the Congress of People's Deputies discussed the events in Tbilisi."

After a heated debate in which some legislators accused Moscow of ordering the brutal April 9, 1989, repression of a peaceful demonstration, the Congress passed a resolution condemning the crackdown.

"If it had not been for Mikhail (Gorbachev), I would have resigned," Shevardnadze said.

Such products include oil and natural gas for which the republic of 3.8 million residents is totally dependent upon the Soviet Union.

"Moscow's warning is (of) certain concern...but that should not spoil Easter," Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene said on Lithuanian television monitored by the BBC.

"We could have expected worse," said Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis.

Soviets confess to crime Katyn tragedy in Poland



A Pole places flowers on Friday at a memorial in Warsaw to victims of the Katyn massacre. Moscow admitted that Soviet Secret Police carried out the murder of 15,000 Polish officers during World War Two. (Reuters wirephoto)



A German doctor performs an autopsy on a dead Polish soldier selected at random from a mass grave as several American and British POWs who were taken to the site look on. The Soviet Union admitted for the first time that the Soviet Secret Police carried out the Katyn killings, in which 15,000 Poles were executed. (Reuters wirephoto)

It took 50 years Truth out at last

WARSAW, April 14, (AP): For nine years, through deportation and war's devastation, Helena Krahelska kept shoes and shirts waiting.

But in 1948, on the death of her youngest daughter, she acknowledged that her beloved husband, Piotr, had been among the Polish Army officers massacred by the Soviet secret police in Katyn forest.

It would take the Soviet government 42 more years to do the same. Mrs Krahelska did not live to hear Moscow yesterday put aside the sham that the crime was committed by the Nazis and acknowledge responsibility for what it called "one of the gravest crimes of Stalinism."

But her surviving daughter, Wanda Zadrozna, received the news with eyes glazed by tears.

"There is a great regret that it took 50 years and the wives of those people didn't live until this day," Zadrozna said.

"But whatever happens now, it is good that the truth will be finally written in history."

Zadrozna was 12 when she last saw her father, a landowner, lawyer and town mayor in eastern Poland. As the Soviet Army swept into Poland at the outbreak of World War II in 1939, they interned 15,000 Polish Army officers.

"We got three letters, the last one was from March 5, 1940," Zadrozna recalled, fingering the plastic wrapping around the worn pages that record her father's last worries about his family's fate.

"Then no one got any letters any more," she said.

MOSCOW, April 14, (AP): The Soviet Union confessed yesterday to what it called one of the "most horrifying crimes" under Stalin, when thousands of Polish army officers were shot in the back of the head and stacked in mass graves.

Polish and Western historians long have blamed the NKVD, the Soviet secret police, for killing more than 4,000 officers in the Katyn forest near Smolensk some 40 years ago. They were captured by the Soviets at the beginning of World War II.

More than 10,000 other Polish officers were killed in camps elsewhere. Their bodies never have been found.

In its statement yesterday, the Soviet Union clearly linked the fate of all 15,000 officers.

The Soviet Union previously had insisted Nazi Germany was responsible for the killings.

The announcement came the day after Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev met with Polish President Wojciech Jaruzelski and signed a declaration on bilateral relations.

Blank spots
Poland has been pressing the Soviet Union for an admission of responsibility for the slaying, saying such "blank spots" in history were barriers to better Polish-Soviet relations.

The admission also came 47 years to the day when the Nazis announced the discovery of the Katyn graves.

The Soviet statement said it was "materially indisputable" that the massacre was the work of Stalin's secret police chief Lavrenti Beria, his protégé V.N. Merkulov and others.

"The Soviet side, expressing a deep regret in connection with the Katyn tragedy, states that it is one of the most horrifying Stalinist crimes," it said, a statement carried by the official Tass news agency.

"It's good that criminals admit their crimes," said Lech Walesa, leader of Poland's Solidarity movement. But he said "other problems remain, including war reparations."

The massacre has caused hard feelings among Poles for years despite the previous communist government's loyal statements supporting the Soviet Union.

Archives
At their meeting in the Kremlin, Gorbachev gave Jaruzelski copies of the material from the Soviet archives pertaining to the Poles imprisoned in the NKVD camps, Tass reported.

Gorbachev, in a speech at a dinner last night honouring Jaruzelski, referred to the massacre. Tass reported. He said the two leaders talked about "those historical knots" that even many years later cast shadows on our relations. Many of them are undone already.

"Recently, documents have been discovered which indirectly but convincingly testify that thousands of Polish officers who died in the Smolensk woods half a century ago became victims of Beria and his henchmen," Tass quoted Gorbachev as saying.

"The graves of the Polish officers are near Soviet people's graves, who fell from the same evil hand," he said. "It is not easy to speak about this tragedy but we speak about it for only through the truth there lies the way to genuine renewal and to genuine mutual understanding."

Massacre
Jaruzelski is scheduled to visit a memorial at Katyn following pilgrimages of Poles whose relatives and friends died in the massacre.

The officers were captured by the Soviet Union when it moved into eastern Poland at the beginning of World War II, shortly after Hitler sent his soldiers across Poland's western border to start the war.

The Polish officers were shot in the back of the head and stacked in layers in mass graves. The bodies were unearthed in April 1943 by Nazi German soldiers who had captured the area. They immediately publicised the find for propaganda purposes.

Stalin blamed the Nazis. Soviet historians recently began questioning that version, but officially stood until Friday.

"If it had not been for Mikhail (Gorbachev), I would have resigned," Shevardnadze said.

Many Georgians believe that politburo conservative Yegor Ligachev ordered the crackdown while Gorbachev was in England last April. During an angry exchange earlier this year at a plenum of the Communist Party's Central Committee, Shevardnadze bitterly disputed Ligachev's claim that the entire politburo approved the Tbilisi crackdown.

At least 150,000 Georgians held an all-night vigil earlier this week to commemorate the victims of the tragedy on its first anniversary.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Easter exodus hits record level: Europe's Easter holiday exodus hit record levels on Friday without the big delays some had feared due to industrial action.

London's Heathrow airport expected to handle 140,000 passengers a day this weekend, the highest ever for Easter. The city's other main airport at Gatwick reported a 21 per cent increase in traffic, but most flights were leaving on time. (Reuters)

Shell explodes, teenager killed: A teenager was killed and another wounded when a World War II artillery shell exploded after they found it in a ditch, officials said Friday in Bethune, France.

The youths found the partially buried shell late Thursday, and Olivier Delerive, 17, was killed when he tried to pull it out. His companion, Christophe Ambiance, 15, suffered leg injuries and was hospitalized in Bethune, near the city of Lille in far-northern France. (AP)

ETA suspect tortured: A suspected member of the Basque separatist group ETA who was arrested last week while transporting 660 pounds (300 kilos) of explosives was tortured by the Spanish police, his sister charged Friday in Bayonne, France.

In an interview published by the Basque nationalist weekly "Enbata," Ursua Parot said she visited her brother Henri in a Madrid prison for 20 minutes on April 9.

Members of the civil guard took turns in hitting him night and day, the sister told the newspaper. "To prevent him from fighting back he was put into a straitjacket, then lifted him and dragged him by the hair, pulling it out by the fistful." (UPI)

Hunt on for new kidnap victim: Scores of police backed by helicopters searched the Calabria mountains Friday for bandits who seized a young merchant in what police believe was a kidnapping for ransom.

The search concentrated in the Aspromonte mountain region in the toe of Italy where Calabria kidnap gangs are believed to be holding the six other victims still in the hands of Italian kidnappers. (UPI)

Freighter catches fire: A Maltese-flagged freighter caught fire in the Saronic Gulf off Athens on Friday, but none of its 22 crewmen was injured, the Merchant Marine Ministry said.

A ministry spokesman said that the Neptunia, with a deadweight of 16,500 tonnes, had set off from the Port of Piraeus for Algeria Friday and was empty. (AP)

UN panel recommends: A UN panel recommended Thursday night to condemn Britain and Hungary for their recent moves to liberalise ties with South Africa.

The action came during a meeting of the commission on transnational corporations which acted on a draft resolution introduced by the Organisation for African Unity (OAU). (Kuna)

Israel is ready for disarm dialogue

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 14, (Reuters): Israel is ready to discuss the demilitarisation of the Middle East with its Arab neighbours, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said yesterday after meeting five US senators.

"Year after year we have proposed a bilateral, direct framework for negotiations between Israel and all the Arab countries in the region on the demilitarisation of the region," Shamir told Israel television's Arabic news.

"What I'm suggesting would require bilateral negotiations for real peace... we're ready," Shamir said.

Five US senators urged Shamir to move ahead with Middle East peace efforts and played down Iraq's threat to retaliate with chemical weapons for any Israeli attack.

The senators, fresh from talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Thursday, did not even raise the Iraqi leader's offer to destroy weapons of mass destruction if Israel did the same. Israeli and US officials said.

"We talked more about the sense of urgency the Americans feel about moving the peace process forward," Democratic Senator Howard Metzenbaum of Ohio told reporters after meeting Shamir.

Republican Frank Murkowski of Alaska said that after talks in Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Iraq the Senators were convinced there was a window of opportunity for peace in the Middle East.

He said they urged Shamir to accept US Secretary of State James Baker's proposal for Israeli-Palestinian talks. The right-wing premier's reluctance to back the Baker formula led to the breakup of Israel's coalition government last month.

Shamir said Israel must continue with the peace process and in particular with efforts to persuade... the United States regarding our ideas. "On a response to Baker's proposal he said:

"That is a detail. I don't think everything centres around some answer... to some question."

Shamir said Arab proposals regarding arms control in the region were general and abstract. Earlier in the day his media adviser, Avi Pazner, said the prime minister was sceptical about Arab readiness to make peace with Israel.

During tough talks in the Iraqi town of Mosul on Thursday, the senators heard Saddam's letter drafted in consultation with US President George Bush which spelled out their deep concern over Iraq's armaments programme.

"We cannot stress too firmly our conviction that your efforts to develop a nuclear, chemical and biological capability seriously jeopardise... rather than enhance... your security, potentially threaten other nations of the region and provoke dangerous tensions throughout the Middle East," the letter said.

The US State Department said yesterday that while it welcomes an offer by Iraq to destroy chemical weapons it does not believe that should be part of a deal linked to the destruction of chemical and nuclear arms by Israel.



Senator Gerald V. Bully (right) discusses details of a space vehicle prototype with McGill University dean D.L. Morrell. Bully found the prototype in his Brussels home last month, worked on gun projects capable of sending shells over large distances, and according to British press reports, his death may be connected with the recent seizure by British customs of a rocket cylinder that could be used as a gun parts that were allegedly being shipped to Iraq. (Reuters wire-photo)

Hype or pipe?

(Continued from Page 1)

and industry were victims of "the biggest con in the history of arms manufacture."

Military experts linked the seizure to Canadian scientist Gerald Bull, a gunner specialist who was shot dead outside his Brussels apartment last month.

Terry Gander of Jane's armour and artillery said the sections seized by customs exactly matched specifications for a massive gun described in a book co-authored by Bull. Bull worked with the United States and Canada in the 1960s to develop a powerful enough to blast satellites into space and helped to produce in service in Iran, Iraq and South Africa.

Harry Dodds of Jane's Defence Weekly said it was possible that customs officials had got it wrong. "We may find in a few days' time it's just a pipe and then there's a lot of egg on a lot of faces," he said.

British intelligence and law enforcement agencies for seizing the tubing shortly before it was to be shipped to Iraq. "Anything we can do to keep guns or chemicals out of the hands of terrorist nations, we should," he said. If it turns out the tubing was an illegal weapons export, "I would encourage and would offer our co-operation to guarantee a total ban on using and firing up the ban of weapons or potential weapons to countries that are illegally getting them."

"It is our purpose to keep such things out of the hands of the Iraqi government," Bush said. Some British ministers and senior officials believe the allegations of Iraq's so-called "super-gun" barrel is "utter nonsense," it was reported today.

There are even suggestions carried for the first time by the British media that it may be part of a "dirty tricks operation" by Israel of the US in preparation for an Israeli strike against military installations in Iraq.

Pope makes new appeal for peace in Lebanon

VATICAN CITY, April 14, (Agencies): Pope John Paul II, in an Easter message to the Christian Maronite leader in Lebanon, on Friday expressed the hope that the continuing conflict will contribute to "a prompt resurrection of the country."

The drama in Lebanon must cease," he said. The Pope expressed his distress for the continuing strife in Lebanon... particularly between rival Christian factions -- in an Easter letter sent to Nasrallah Pierre Sleir, Patriarch of the Maronite Christians.

It was the latest of a long series of appeals by the Pope for peace in Lebanon, including an apostolic letter in September, 1989 addressed to all the Bishops of the Roman Catholic church and several appeals to world leaders.

"My thoughts turn spontaneously toward the population of Lebanon, toward its different communities, all sorely tried for 15 years by the enormous sufferings caused by the war," the Pope's letter said.

"Very often arms are used to settle disputes which, as the facts show, only dialogue and negotiation are capable of solving," John Paul wrote.

Rival Christian forces skirmished with machine-guns for control of their tiny enclave yesterday as the nation's civil war entered its 16th year and the Arab League made a new effort to settle the strife.

Jerusalem should be kept united: Hussein

AMMAN, April 14, (AP): King Hussein said in an interview broadcast yesterday that Jerusalem should be kept united and given special status, but with Arab sovereignty over the Arab eastern sector of the city.

In the interview earned by state-run Jordan television, the king criticised a recent non-binding resolution by the US Senate that recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Jordan ruled the eastern half of the city until Israel captured it in 1967. Hussein said East Jerusalem is part of the occupied West Bank.

Israel has annexed that part of the city, together with a wide swath of suburbs, and says it will never give up them up.

Hussein, who ruled East Jerusalem until Israel captured it in 1967, said Jerusalem is "too important an issue to be dealt with as a political pawn."

"It is too great a city to be only the capital of Israel," Hussein said in the interview which the television said was conducted with the American Cable News network.

He indicated he favoured giving the city "special status" in any Arab-Israeli peace settlements.

"In the context of peace, one does not envisage that Jerusalem would be divided, yet at the same time Arab sovereignty over the Arab part of the city has to be assured," the king said.

He said in such a way, "the rights of Christians and Muslims and Jews can be safeguarded."

The king repeated earlier warnings that without action toward a peace settlement "we are coming to a very very dangerous crossroads very very soon," which could lead to an upsurge of extremism both in Israel and the Arab world.

"There are weapons of mass destruction in the area," Hussein noted, referring specifically to Israel's alleged stockpiles of nuclear and chemical weapons.

The king also repeated his defence of his ally and neighbour, Iraq, against Western allegations it is trying to develop nuclear arms and over Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's warning he would use chemical weapons against an Israeli nuclear attack.

He said Iraq has to keep up defences due to the lack of a firm peace to the 1980-88 war with Iran, now halted by a ceasefire.

"Iraq has to prepare itself under the prevailing circumstances to face whatever threat... unless there is progress toward a resolution of that problem," he said.

The king also said Saddam "was very emphatic that he was not threatening anyone... he was very very clear in suggesting that Iraq, which believed in peace and justice in this area, was at the same time prepared to defend itself if attacked."

Hussein said it "was clear" Saddam's warning to strike at Israel with chemical weapons "refers to (a response) to a nuclear attack on Iraq."

Saddam also vowed to make "fires eat half of Israel" if the Jewish state staged any attack on his country, but he did not specify what sort of weapons he would use.

Israeli leaders playing waiting game: Arafat

PLO chairman warns of aggression

LONDON, April 14 (Reuters): Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat said in remarks published yesterday that Israeli politicians were playing a waiting game, trying to wear down the uprising in the Israeli-held territories.

In an interview with the London-based Arabic newspaper Al-Hayat, Arafat described the failure of Israeli Labour leader Shimon Peres to form a new Israeli government as a political game.

"They want to gain time. Even if Peres succeeds, or (Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir remains in power, they will go to elections to gain at least eight months in the hope of hurting the intifada (uprising)," he told the daily.

Arafat said he had evidence of Israeli military preparations on all fronts, and warned Arabs to face up to what he said could be new Israeli military aggression.

Israeli commentators say unless Peres miraculously managed within two weeks to conjure

up a parliamentary majority, it could take him many weeks to form an alternative government or agree on early elections.

Arafat called for a new Israeli government to create "a real atmosphere for peace" in the Middle East.

"I hope a new Israeli government will accept the peace process, dialogue, and the need to work together to achieve real peace," Arafat told a news conference in Prague.

He said President Vaclav Havel could further the peace process when he travels to Israel later this month.

Asked if he had supported Peres's attempts to form a government, Arafat replied: "I am not in a position to interfere in internal Israeli affairs."

But he stressed that European media had dubbed Shamir as "Mr No" for rejecting peace proposals and refusing to talk to the PLO.

"I'm looking forward to a new government stopping the oppression, the crimes against

our women, our children, our people in the occupied territories... to one that will give a real atmosphere for peace," Arafat said.

He said he had invited Havel to visit the occupied territories during his trip to Israel to see for himself "the violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people."

He called US Secretary of State James Baker's five-point plan for Israeli-Palestinian dialogue a preparatory step toward a peace conference, and said Havel could also contribute to the peace process.

"There is no doubt that President Havel, with the esteem he enjoys as a principled man, can help push forward developments mainly because he has balanced contacts with both sides," Arafat said.

"I asked President Havel to contribute to the reopening of the closed Arab university and institutes of higher education in the occupied territories."

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MIDEAST BRIEFS

Israeli fraud
NEW YORK, April 14, (AP): An Israeli indicted for allegedly defrauding two US banks of more than \$6 million arrived in New York from Israel and appeared before a federal magistrate yesterday.

The case of Samuel Dagan marks the first time US and Israeli officials have co-operated to prosecute an Israeli accused of crimes in this country, federal authorities said.

Efforts to prosecute Dagan and his wife, Miriam K. Dagan, had been hindered by an Israeli law that prevents its citizens from being extradited to stand trial for crimes committed outside Israel.

But following two years of negotiations between Israeli and US authorities, Israeli authorities charged the Dagens in February with closely related charges in a 22-count indictment.

Najib rejects
ISLAMABAD, April 14, (Reuters): Soviet-backed Afghan President Najibullah said in an interview published today that his ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan would not quit power unless defeated in free elections.

Islamabad's daily newspaper, The Muslim, quoted him as also saying in the interview that the morale of his forces had grown higher after crushing a coup attempt last month that was led by then Defence Minister Shahnawaz Tanai.

"The removal from any arrangement of the PDPA, which is a well-organised and powerful nation-wide party, could only be considered if such is the verdict of a free and fair election," he said.

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KUWAIT ... GULF

Co-op union to finance five new parks

Coastlines to be further developed

ALSEYASSAH has quoted a well-informed official source at the Municipal Affairs Committee as saying that the committee has agreed to the establishment of five new parks in the governorates to be financed by the Kuwait Union of Co-operative Consumer Societies. The Committee has requested

the chief engineer to co-ordinate between the Union, Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources and the Public Works Ministry to execute the works, which will include the construction of entertainment facilities and halls. The Committees has also agreed to hand over phase 10 of the Fintas shore

and phase 11 of the Abu Halifa shore located within the Kuwait coastline to the Department of Government. Domains and Services to utilise them in building touristic attractions or entertainment facilities through contracts concluded with the Touristic Enterprises Company or any such company for

public use.

The Committee also required the Municipality to take the necessary measures to protect the pavements tiles against damage sustained through the renovation and remodelling of buildings, stressing the need for leaving a safety area on the pavement.

No shortage of seats in schools, says Sharrah

THE Assistant Undersecretary for Private Education Affairs at Kuwait's Ministry of Education Dr Yaqoub Al Sharrah has denied rumours that there are no seats for registering new students at private schools.

In an interview with a local daily, the official clarified that the insistence of some parents to register their children in specific schools contributed to the false impression that there is a paucity of seats available for new students.

He added that the students density at the private schools had been treated by the ministry with some flexibility by permitting these schools to accommodate a few more students over the stipulated numbers, provided that any increase in students should not affect the educational process. The official confirmed that the ministry would not be lenient towards any significant excess of students at any school.

Registration

He added that the registration process for the academic year 1990/1991 had begun on Feb 17, and would last up to Oct 1990.

Meanwhile, the official was quoted as saying that 17,000 new students will be accepted during the next academic year at Arab and foreign private schools.

He added that the ministry had started receiving applications for obtaining necessary licences for the setting up of new private schools as of Jan 1. The closing date for such licences is March 15. The official said that the ministry had received six applications this year and all were rejected in view of its uncompliance to the ministry's conditions particularly those relating to the schools buildings.

He added that two new private schools were being opened at Hawalli and Khaitan recently with a total accommodation capacity of 5,000 students.



Health week visits

On the occasion of the celebrations of the International Health Day and Health Week in Kuwait, Minister of Planning, and acting Minister of Public Health, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi received a number of students representing various educational areas in Kuwait.

The minister met with students and explained to them the emblem of the International Health Day and the objectives of the emblem.



Education Ministry highlighting scholarships

OFFICIALS of the Ministry of Higher Education, prior to completing the scholarship plan for this year, are visiting boys and girls secondary schools with the objective of explaining the ministry's scholarship plan and the annual plan to send students abroad to pursue their higher education.

Disclosing this information, the Controller of Foreign Scholarships at the Ministry of Higher Education, Ibrahim Al Khamis said that officials have visited three secondary schools in Jahra, Bayan and Sabah Al Salem areas. These visits will be resumed after the end of Ramadan.

The purpose of the visits, is to familiarise students with the importance of obtaining their Toefl in Kuwait to be eligible for a scholarship. In this respect, the training centre at the Ministry (in Jabriya) organises a Toefl course.

The Ministry of Higher Education co-ordinates with Kuwait University to receive applications of students who finish the Secondary School Certificate and also receives applications of students who desire to obtain scholarships in foreign universities for two weeks.

Investment funds decision praised

Boon to economy: investors

KUWAITI investors warmly received the cabinet decision concerning setting up investment and real estate funds, the daily Al Seyassah reported and quoted these investors as saying that this resolution will support official trends aimed at reactivating the national economy, particularly under the positive signed which could be perceived through all sectors of the national economy.

The sources expected that these funds will begin to make their presence felt in the bourse within the coming few months and after the completion of some procedural formalities.

Meanwhile the daily quoted the deputy Chairman of Kuwait Foreign Trading Investment and contracting Company (KFT-CIC) Asad Al Banwan as saying that his company is prepared to introduce an investment fund for local investors provided such a fund has a minimum paid up capital of KD five million.

The official went on to state that the value of investment units will be subject to periodical evaluation and their relevant values will be announced on a regular basis. He added that the funds general manager will be empowered to publish semi-monthly and quarterly data about investment activities in addition to semi-annual reports.

Another senior source said that the Kuwaiti investment companies have the expertise to professionally manage investment portfolios as these companies have considerable exposure and experience in dealing with foreign investments.

In a related development, the

Director General of Kuwait Stock Market, Hisham Al Otaibi was quoted as saying that setting up of Investment and Real Estate Funds will constitute an important vehicle for reactivating the bourse by adding the spirit of institutionalism.

He added that the law governing the setting up of these funds and the organisation of dealing at the Stock Market will be declared effective by next week.

Prices

Meanwhile, the daily quoted the General Manager of Kuwait Investment Company (KIC) Ghanim Al Shabeh as saying that the setting up of the investment funds will not enhance the prices of the shares in the long term. He expected that the real estate companies will hasten to set up its funds before the investment companies, clarifying that real estate still attracts investors than shares.

He clarified that the right of setting up Investment Funds will be given only to the Kuwaiti Joint Stock Companies when laws allowing the funds investments for its own accounts or on behalf of third party.

He added that each investment fund will be established by a decision from the Minister of Commerce and Industry and the approval of the Central Bank.

Meanwhile, another dealer said that the capital of the proposed funds will range between KD five million and ten.

The Chairman and the Managing director of Kuwait Company for Financial Intermediary Bader Al Sumait was quoted as

saying that the setting up of the investment funds will lead eventually to the absorption of liquidity from the market, referring that these funds will eventually be received by the local investors.

Privatisation

Names of public joint stock companies that are being intended to be transferred to the private sector will be announced to enable the private sector to have sufficient time to study the standings of these companies, high-ranking financial official said.

Speaking on the issue, the Finance Minister, Jasssem Al Kharafi disclosed that the general trend to transfer the public joint stock companies to the private sector is not new. He commented that it is to be understood that there is difference between the establishments that have strategic activities and the public joint stock companies of which the state is a shareholder varying percentages.

The official categorically stated that the government will undertake a comprehensive and accurate study to determine the capabilities of the private sector to purchase and manage these undertakings. The study will also focus on ensuring that the sale of these companies will not adversely affect the actual values of the companies that are presently listed at the stock market.

The government will ensure that the transfer will not result in bringing down the price level of shares in the stock market, Kharafi said.

Meet a neighbour

Realising a dream in print

Shoala is proud of his achievements

PUBLISHING is not generally associated with Arab businessmen. In the Gulf it is not common for local entrepreneurs to invest in this highly sophisticated and changing world of information technology. However, in recent years with the demand for both commercial and general information of all sorts there has been an upsurge in the number of newspapers, periodicals, television and broadcasting stations throughout the region. Publishing has become a vital sector in contributing to a great extent the development of the "information infrastructure" of the region.

A number of imaginative and ambitious young Arab entrepreneurs, equipped with degrees from prestigious universities abroad, ventured into this field in the early seventies, the period when publishing was still in its infancy in these areas.

Repute

In Bahrain, the first major publishing house was launched in 1974 by a young national in his twenties. The achievement of this young man is remarkable considering that he set out to realise his dream in publishing with almost no capital and backing from anyone. He did not belong to any big business house nor was he privileged to inherit any business skills or financial backing. It is also rare for an individual with less than a year's work experience to set up his own business while still in his twenties. In fact the only thing this young man liked to do was to write "a bit".

This desire to write led him to establish a major publishing company in the country with several quality and reputable publications covering major industries throughout the Arab world. It was the kind of achievement that "Bahraini dream" is made of and an inspiration to the young generation of this island nation.

Abdul Nabi Al Shoala is a man who believes that "all dreams are achievable" providing one keeps working at it all costs. Like some of his generation, Shoala was privileged enough to have a college education abroad at a time when Bahrain did not have any institution of higher learning. While studying at St Xavier's College in Bombay, India, he showed considerable glimpses of his talent and potential to succeed. He participated enthusiastically in a number of campus activities, becoming president of the Bahrain Students Union as well as the Arab Students



Abdul Nabi Al Shoala, chairman Falcon Publishing Company.

Union, a role he says he enjoyed immensely. It opened up many avenues for him and developed his thirst for knowledge in all things.

While still at College, Shoala began to write. What began as a passion shaped his future as a businessman. Initially he began to contribute articles to the Arabic press from India.

Start

"I liked to write at first, but later discovered I could also earn some money writing articles for newspapers," he said.

After his return from India, Shoala worked for less than a year at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Although this stint at the ministry was interesting, the young man craved something of his own.

"I always wanted to start my own business, even when I was a student. The idea of working for someone else never appealed to me." He admits, however, that he was initially uncer-

tain and insecure about the idea of starting a publishing company, a field in which he had no experience or knowledge. Nevertheless, he took it up as a challenge with two local colleagues after giving up his "secure job" at the ministry.

The company which started out as Gulf Public Relations, an advertising and public relations company, in 1974, branched out within a short period into publishing and market research with the formation of Falcon Publishing Company.

A firm believer in organisation and planning, Shoala's third company Gulf Market International came about more by circumstances than anything else in his own words. It is a credit to his personal charisma as a man and his honesty and determination to succeed as a businessman.

Today, at 41, Shoala sits at the helm of an organisation that has given the best quality and services it offers. Overseas expansion naturally followed with an office in London.

The publishing company still maintains its original concept of providing sources of information to non-Arabic speakers with a growing number of magazines and trade directories.

Adaptation

Shoala is proud of his achievements and is particularly pleased that his company is contributing to the "information revolution" in the region. As ever, he is active as ever he likes the constant challenge of keeping up with the changes in the world of information technology.

"We have to move with the times and that means adopt to new technology all the time in view of ever increasing demand and strong competition in the media market," he said.

He believes that the region is experiencing considerable growth in publishing and as demand for information increases daily so is the need to provide better faster services. In the future, he says, local magazines for Bahrain in this field are more Bahrainis are joining the industry as journalists.

Speaking about his own role as a journalist, Shoala said he continues to keep in touch with his first love by contributing a weekly column to the local press. This weekly effort helps him relax. However, such as he would love to indulge in other pursuits or hobbies he simply does not have the time. While much of his time is taken up by running his extensive business activities and travelling he has little time for anything else.

"Fortunately, I enjoy travelling as it gives me the opportunity of meeting new and interesting people from all over in the course of my journey. It helps me to broaden my knowledge," he said.

Shoala is also involved with the activities of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce as he is a member of the executive board of directors. He enjoys his role at the chamber as the job carries responsibilities and challenges. Whatever time he has at home his young publishing tycoon relaxes by listening to classical music and reading. He is married with three children.

Shoala presents a picture of a successful individual not only as a businessman but also as a person.

"Although I am satisfied with what I have achieved, I am not content. There is always something new and exciting to do—a new challenge. That's what keeps me going."

Focus on environment: Mumin

CELEBRATIONS of the International Day of Health and Health Week this year will focus on environmental effects on the health of individuals, the head of the organisational committee, Dr Hussein Al Mumin said.

The official lauded Kuwait Municipality for accepting to issue a special pamphlet on the occasion which is designed to develop the environmental awareness of the public. He pointed out that in many countries of the world, especially in crowded cities with many factories getting rid of pollutants has been the subject of several studies to protect citizens from environmental pollution.

The official said that drinking water in Kuwait is free from any pollutants as it is mixed with brackish water after being sterilised and storing them in cement water reservoirs that are hygienically clean

and sealed. Additionally, water is tested prior to it being supplied from these reservoirs, the official explained.

Meanwhile according to an official source at the Ministry of Public Health 15 new cases of Aids were discovered in the country over the past two months, bringing the total number of cases in the country to 70.

Officials at the Anti-Aids National Committee announced during the Aids Conference hosted by Kuwait last February that the number of cases discovered in Kuwait were then 55, the official said.

He added that all new cases were discovered in patients who resided abroad, adding that the virus was discovered as the people tested positive by the ministry's Aids tests for imported labour.

Kuwaiti smuggler gets 5 years RI

THE Criminal Court sentenced a Kuwaiti national identified as Mohammed to five years rigorous imprisonment on charges of smuggling whisky and carrying a machine gun and ammunition without a licence.

Another man identified as an Iraqi national named Naser who was also apprehended along with the accused was fined KD300 and ordered to be deported.

The court was told that border guards noticed the defendant's car near Abdali area (Iraqi-Kuwaiti borders) a little past midnight. They called on the driver to stop, but began shooting. The police patrol called for help of the army that sent patrols who gave chase as the criminals were trying to flee Iraq, but surrendered as the army patrol opened fire.

The car contained 360 bottles of whisky, a Kalashnikov rifle with 300 rounds of ammunition.

During the court proceedings, the first accused Mohammed claimed that the contraband was for his personal use and not for trading. He also said that he took Naser along with him to Kuwait as a favour to one of his friends in Iraq.

Last Bahrain census in 1991

By Yakub Razaque Arab Times staff

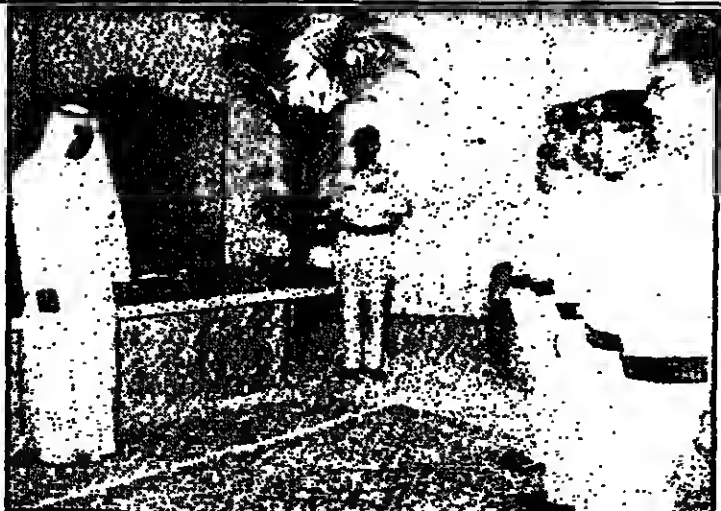
BAHRAIN'S next census due to begin in 1991 may be the last one to be held in the country, according to a government source recently.

The source said that the 1991 population census could be the final one because rapid computerisation has made it possible to collect relevant information of all residents in the island.

A central computer operated by the Central Population Register of the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) will incorporate specific vital details of all nationals and expatriates. Such information, it is said, will be readily available to all government ministries and agencies when required.

Census details are deemed necessary and important for the government to take into account demographic trends in order to undertake development projects to provide extensive and better services to residents in the country.

According to the source the next census will complete the most comprehensive record of information on all residents.



New officers

A number of specialised new officers took the oath before defence minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber after completing their courses. The director of officers at the Kuwait Army read an Amiri decree to appoint them as officers before they took the oath. The new officers were later received by Chief of Staff Major General Mizayad Al Sania who conferred upon them their military ranks.

Kuwaiti women still disinclined to join nursing profession

THE Health Sciences College at Kuwait University and particularly the nursing section graduates a large number of highly qualified nurses who are able to work at health centres and hospitals.

A local daily visited the college during which it conducted a survey in order to highlight female students opinions on the issue of Kuwaiti females disinclination towards joining the nursing profession.

The largest section of students stressed that nursing was the only

replacement as they were not accepted at other colleges. They stated that they are not now interested in continuing their nursing education and added that most Kuwaiti students withdraw from the college every semester.

Head of the nursing section Dr Meradale Bolick stated that the number of graduate students vary each year. She pointed out that the number of graduates have increased during the past few years and 75 students graduated in the last semester.

She said that a student would require

a minimum of two years and a half in order to finish nursing education. She praised the level of students and added that the nursing department at the Health Sciences College has highly qualified and dedicated teaching staff who impart professional training to aspiring nurses.

Incentives

She indicated that most students studying at the college are non-Kuwaitis adding that the nursing department works hard towards encouraging Kuwaiti females so they

can join the nursing programme. Students receive KD150 monthly as financial incentive.

She stated that students who graduated from the nursing department will be able to continue their education by joining the university. She said that there are no problems regarding finding jobs for graduates adding that all they have to do is to go to the Ministry of Public Health and apply.

On the other hand, Awatef Awadh Al Azmi a students of nursing in her second semester of education at the

college stated that she had successfully passed the initial stage and was able to join the college. She added that education during the rehabilitation stage was easier than the later stages because it was taught in Arabic as opposed to be present where all required courses are in English.

She expressed happiness over the visits at hospitals adding that she gains a lot of experience during these visits. She indicated that most of her education includes practical training which makes courses more enjoyable.

Muna Al Shemari expressed happi-

ness over joining the nursing section adding that it is a humane profession, and highly adequate for females. She said that at the beginning of her education she was confronted with the language problem the reason she left her. She added that practical training is highly effective.

On the other hand, Ruba Moham-med Eid stated that nursing was her last choice, among other colleges. She indicated that she really was interested in studying pharmacy, adding that she intends to continue her education in the same field or in pharmacy if possible.

Higher education law proposals discussed

Shamlan meets Paaet teaching staff

KUWAIT'S Minister of Higher Education Dr Ali Al Shamlan recently met with the teaching staff of Kuwait's Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (Paaet), a local daily reported. It added that the meeting which took place at Paaet's premises at Adaliya was attended by the Under Secretary at the Higher Education Ministry Dr Mussaad Al Haroun, Director General of Paaet Dr Abdurrahman Al Muhallan and the Chairman of Teaching Staff Society Salah Abdullagader.

During the meeting, Shamlan clarified that the draft bill of higher education is

under way for about 18 months. The current University law enacted in 1966 and the law of Paaet was issued in 1982 and it is high time to unify the law governing the higher education system, Shamlan said.

Budget
He added, in this context, that a special-use legal advisory committee had been formed to prepare the higher education law. The pertinent draft had been sent to the Kuwait University and Paaet in addition to some experts at an Arab higher education ministry for perusal. He added that the higher education ministry had received several comments over the

proposed law and the advisory committee have studied the proposals and comments received.

He told the meeting that the Cabinet had recently allocated a budget for the construction of new buildings for Paaet and the proposed buildings will be designed to match with the latest higher education march.

Shamlan said that the ministry was faced a lot of problems with USA based unrecognised universities. There are about 10,000 universities in the USA but only 1,000 are recognised. He disclosed that the evaluation of these universities is handled

by a neutral institution in the USA and not in Kuwait.

Replying to a question about the admission of Paaet teaching staff children to Kuwait University, the minister said that Paaet is committed to provide the necessary seats for the children of its teaching staff at its colleges.

He disclosed that he contemplates to submit a detailed memo to HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah about the possibility of setting up a higher council for education similar to that dealing with the oil, housing and planning affairs of the country.

Old mail route Vintage fliers depart Bahrain

MANAMA, April 14. (AP): Men and women fliers, many in their 60s and 70s, retracing the old Imperial Airways Mail route from England to Australia in single-engine aircraft, took off yesterday for Oman.

Bahrain was the 10th stop in the World Vintage Air Rally which includes 25 of the original 31 landings of the 10,000-mile (16,000-km) distance.

Elections in Iraklion, Crete that spurred random gunfire and mobs in the street, a 5-hour customs wait in Egypt, and meeting King Hussein and Queen Noor of Jordan have been part of the assorted receptions given to the gathering of vintage aircraft and pilots.

Pilots are flying in planes including De Havillands Dragons, Bellanca, Stinsons, Cessnas, Beeches and Pipers.

"Flying in events such as this keeps all of us young and adventurous at heart," commented Sammy McKay of Flint, Michigan, who is 75 years old.

Before takeoff, there was discussion with the 41-year-old Australian organiser, Lang Kidby, whether the journey could be compressed by flying two or three legs in one day as the fliers were already two weeks behind schedule. The legs average 164 miles (262 kms).

Commemorative
Kidby said the fliers have scrapped the competition for best time and airmanship, leaving the rally as a commemorative trip only.

"In the old days of the mail route, they had it much easier because everywhere they landed was part of the British Empire," he commented. "They didn't have all the problems with clearance, politics, and landing fees."

The rally started March 25 from London, and was expected to take six to seven weeks to reach the final destination in Australia.

Of the 24 starters, six aircraft have abandoned due to crashes or engine problems. One Fairchild 24 was demolished in Saudi Arabia in an unsuccessful take-off, following an emergency desert landing. No injuries were incurred.

The fliers, two to three to each plane, were mainly Americans and Australians. They included members of the "99s," an international woman fliers association started in the United States by Amelia Earhart as a World War II support group for male pilots.

Among the 99ers were Ms McKay and two other American grandmothers, Aileen Pickering of Sudio City, California, and Marion Jayne of Palestine, Illinois.

Jayne was the eleventh woman in history to receive an air transport pilot rating.

Many of the single-engine lightweight models are made of wood and resin-coated fabric and demand a high degree of piloting skill and attention. Some of the participants purchased vintage planes for the event.

McKay had one complaint. "We really can't do the shopping we want to on a trip like this because we can't afford the extra weight. Every ounce counts with these light planes."

"Meeting the King and Queen of Jordan was quite an event for us," stated 66-year-old Bill Andrews from Zimbabwe who has 39 years flying experience.

King Hussein, an official patron of the vintage rally, interceded on behalf of the pilots to help gain permission for aircraft to land in Saudi Arabia.

"What blew my mind," claimed Marilyn Moseley, 51, of Vashon Island, Washington, "was flying over Arabia's vast desert region, and suddenly seeing a cluster of bedouin tents a thousand miles away from anything. It makes you wonder how they got there."



Fingerprint course

Under the auspices of the Assistant Undersecretary for Security Affairs at Kuwait's Ministry of Interior Major General Abdulaziz Ismael Jumah a graduation ceremony was held at the premises of Criminal Evidence Department for the first batch of officers to study 'Fingerprint at Crime Scenes', according to the Interior Ministry's Public Relations Department.

The graduation ceremony was attended by the Director General of Criminal Evidence Department Colonel Saud Al Barges and a number of senior officials from the department.

Barges thanked Major General Ismael for patronising the graduation ceremony and also praised the role of the Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah in

preparing security cadres. He added that trainees had received theoretical and practical training in the field of fingerprints.

Major General Ismael praised the importance of organising the training course. He added that the fingerprinting constituted a decisive evidence in crime. He said that the Ministry of Interior was saving no efforts to upgrade personnel and he praised the role of the Minister of Interior in this connection as well as the role of the undersecretary and the other ministry's officials. Picture show (above) Major General Abdulaziz Jumah giving away a certificate to a graduate and (below) Major General Jumah pictured with the graduates.



Khalaf calls for summit to check threat to Arabs

BELGRADE, April 14. (Kuna): A high-ranking Palestinian official yesterday urged for convocation of an urgent Arab summit to face growing threats and challenges against the Arab nation.

Salah Khalaf, better known as Abu Iyad, member of the central committee of the PLO's mainstream, Fatah movement, said the Palestine Liberation Organisation was undertaking "an active diplomatic offensive" in the meantime to encounter current developments sweeping East Europe and "unfair campaigns" being launched by the Zionist circles to sabotage Arab relations with East European states.

He told a group of Arab and foreign newsmen, that his current visit to Belgrade as well as the present one by the Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to remove discord the Zionists and their apparatuses were trying to sow between East European nations and the Arabs.

Ahu Iyad disclosed that the PLO had made extensive diplomatic contacts with the Soviet Union and received "pledges" from the Soviet leadership to resolve the controversial Soviet Jews influx to Israeli-occupied Arab lands.

In reply to a question by Kuna on whether Yugoslavia would resume diplomatic relations with Israel, Abu Iyad said such an affair falls within the sovereignty of Yugoslavia and that "the PLO does not intend to interfere in others' internal affairs."

He asserted that the issue had never been raised during his talks with the Yugoslav leaders but he noted that it is in the interest of

both Yugoslavia and the Arabs to maintain their friendly ties and not allow powers with bad intentions to drive a wedge in those fraternal links.

Meanwhile, Libyan-backed, Syrian-based Palestinian leader Ahmed Jibril yesterday attacked the Soviet Union for the first time, singling out its policy on emigration of Jews.

"The Soviet Union's leadership is responsible for the migration of the Soviet Jews" to Israel, said Jibril, who heads the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command. "It is part of an international conspiracy to settle these Jews in Palestine."

He named the United States as another participant in the alleged conspiracy. The Jewish emigration to Israel has been prompted both by relaxed Soviet rules and tightened US visa quotas.

Israel expects hundreds of thousands of Jews to arrive from the Soviet Union in the next few years. The influx has stirred outrage in the Arab world, which fears they will be settled in the Israeli-occupied territories.

"It was the first criticism of Soviet policy from PFLP-GC. The Soviet Union's willingness to let the Jews travel to Israel has shown consternation in the ranks of traditionally pro-Soviet Palestinian factions."

Jibril, addressing a large rally, also pledged to "escalate the armed struggle against Zionism."

His group participated in Syrian-backed mutiny against Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat in 1983 and remains among his staunch

chest Palestinian opponents.

The group abhors his policy of renouncing terrorism and reorganising Israel to open the way for peace talks.

"As long as Arafat and his hunch of traitors and surrenderers continue giving one concession after another, there can be no encounter with them," Jibril told the rally.

The strength of the rhetoric indicated that recent reported efforts to reconcile Arafat with the Syrian and Libyan-backed radical factions have not succeeded so far.

Second istimara gang arrested

By Salem Al Wawan

SECURITYMEN apprehended another gang accused of trading in driving istimaras and car books, the daily Al-Sayassah quoted official sources as saying.

These arrests followed expanded investigations into the recent case of trading in driving istimaras. All suspects have been detained at the Salwa Police Station and during interrogation, some of the gang acknowledged that they had received a sum of KDe00 for each istimara.

Meanwhile, a new case on istimara trading has been revealed at Al Ahmadi Governorate Traffic Department with the arrest of two men who had previously obtained illegal istimaras against the payment of cash. The defendants provided security police with the name of the "wasta" who had been identified as a colonel, who is now under investigation.

With regard to the first gang apprehended in the same connection at Hawalli, the daily quoted the sources as saying that about 100 defendants were apprehended for obtaining istimaras against payment. The gang of five members will be produced in court within a fortnight.

Bahrain receives F-16 jet fighters

MANAMA, April 14. (AP): Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa was quoted today as saying that Bahrain's receiving a first batch of US F-16 jet fighters, is a military gain for the Arab Gulf Co-operation Council.

"What Bahrain has imported in military planes is part of the GCC military co-ordination... a co-ordination that calls for joy," he said in an interview published in Bahrain's Al-Ayyam newspaper.

"We are not proud of the planes alone, but also of the fact that they are being flown by Bahraini nationals," said Sheikh Hamad.

Sheikh Hamad was replying to a question on whether Bahrain had received the F-16s.

The small island state, a close friend of the United States, is the first among the GCC states to have the F-16s of which it has 16 on order. Saudi Arabia has F-15s, and Kuwait has ordered F-18s. The GCC also includes Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Diplomatic sources said that the first batch of four of the planes were due to reach Bahrain and that they were being flown into the island by Bahrainis who had completed training in the United States.



UK envoy received

The Chief of Staff of Kuwait Army Major-General Muzay Al-Sanea received in his office recently the new appointed British Ambassador to Kuwait Michael Charles Weston. The envoy was also received by Undersecretary of the Defence Ministry Faisal Al-Dawood.

Protect rights of disabled: Hameedi

Shortage of specialists

THE handicapped in Kuwait need a law to protect their rights, in addition to providing them with further utilities and opening new specialisations at Kuwait University designed to graduate specialists proficient in teaching the handicapped. These were the conclusions of a personal tour conducted by a local daily of the Special Education Department.

Mohammed Al Hameedi, director of the Special Education Department stated that the Ministry of Education has given every concern for the care of handicapped by providing special schools rehabilitation and general services to all types of disabilities.

He added that such great concerns have led to a comprehensive development at all schools for the disabled. He indicated that at special education schools there is only one social worker responsible for 50 students. He pointed out that great efforts are exerted towards bringing out the talents and abilities of the handicapped. He said that one of the main problems of the department is the scarcity of specialists

in this field. He added that most specialists are hired from abroad.

He further stated that more incentives must be given to Kuwaiti students in order to encourage them to join different specialities in this field. He indicated that the university lacks many other specialities which are greatly in need. He said that the shortages of teachers at special education institutes is not a local phenomenon only but could be generalised for all Arab states.

Protection

Hameedi stressed that not having a special handicapped law to protect and preserve their rights represent a main problem to this group and added that the new law should treat the handicapped on an equal basis with other people and should consider them as productive society members. More emphasis should be put towards spreading awareness among people.

Controller of the Curricula for Special Education Schools, Aesha Abdul Aziz stated that the

Special Education Department covers four handicapped groups namely, eye sight, hearing, mentally disabled and disabilities caused by the improper functioning of a body organ. She pointed out that each of these groups has special educational plans and curricula.

Aesha said that most of the students who graduated from special education schools have continued their education at the university. She indicated that special education schools in Kuwait have highly qualified instructors and social workers. She stressed that gaining the trust of the handicapped is very important in the educational field.

She said that the curricula department has programmed an educational system for the mentally handicapped. A special committee formed from different educational sectors is now preparing special similar curricula for the deaf who are enrolled at the general government schools. She added that negligence by parents reflect negatively on the behaviour of the handicapped in general.

Condolences

THE executive committee of PAC, in its urgent meeting held on 10th April, passed the following resolution: the executive committee of PAC express their heartfelt condolences to Hamid Mahmoud, Secretary, Public Relations, on the sudden demise of his beloved father. The committee shares the grief of Mr Hamid and pray to the almighty to rest the departed soul in peace. "Inna Lilla He Waa Inna Elahay Rajoon," we have all come from Allah the almighty and we have to return to him. The committee also prayed for Mr Hamid Mahmoud, who has been hospitalised at Farwaniya Hospital (Ward No. 14) and pray for his quick recovery and safe return to his normal work.

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

SOME people's idea of (free speech) is that they are free to say what they like, but if anyone says anything back, that is an outrage. Winston Churchill, British statesman.

Poland fears Germany's army

Red Army will stay for now

LEGNICA, Poland, (AP): A news item from last year: Poles pelt Soviet troops on a 350-kilometre (210-mile) training march with rocks and bottles 21 times.

A news item from this year: Solidarity Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki opposes speedy withdrawal of Soviet troops.

Although Soviet soldiers have been a target of Polish disgust for decades, the public seems to back the prime minister's policy.

Poland has joined Czechoslovakia and Hungary in the rush to be free of the Red Army, not because it loathes the "Occupiers" any less but because it fears another army — reunited Germany's — at least as much.

Mazowiecki, leader of the first non-communist East bloc government, has said the Red Army will stay for now. He sees withdrawal taking place only within a new overall security arrangement for Europe.

Withdrawn

Forty-seven per cent of Poles surveyed in March by television's respected Centre for Public Opinion Research said Soviet troops should be withdrawn, but the date must depend on events in Germany.

Twenty-three per cent said the Soviet army should go immediately, but an equal number wanted the soldiers to stay. The rest of the respondents were undecided. The poll did not disclose the sample size or margin of error.

"Maybe a year ago, people would say that the Soviet troops shouldn't be here, that their presence was more like a political presence...now people are saying it is a kind of a shield against Germany," said Franciszek Grzywek, a Polish magazine editor in the Soviet garrison town of Legnica.

Poland's predicament, as old as its position sandwiched between Germany and Russia, has led new Polish leaders to revive an old argument. The threat from Germany, with the general threat from the West, was long used by the communists to support Poland's Soviet alliance and the presence of the Red Army.

Most estimate the Soviet troops in Poland at 40,000 to 45,000 well below the 80,000 in East Germany, 80,000 in Czechoslovakia and 65,000 in Hungary.

But those in Poland form the supply link from the Soviet Union to the Warsaw Pact's East German frontier.

One of the world's most important Soviet military headquarters, the Western Theatre of Military Operations is based in Legnica, in south-western Poland 90 kilometres (54 miles) from the East German border. From here, theoretically, a Warsaw Pact offensive would be coordinated using troops from across Eastern Europe, the Baltic fleet and air force support.

Legnica, 400 kilometres (250 miles) southeast of Warsaw, is one of the few places in Poland where the Red Army is visible.

Tension

The city is in Silesian territory taken from Germany after World War II. The community of 100,000 is populated, however, largely by Poles uprooted from Eastern territories annexed for the Soviet Union by Josef Stalin.

This adds to the emotional tension as Soviet officers stroll the streets and black Russian limousines rush commanders to and from pre-war mansions in a vast Red Army compounds separated from the rest of the city by a seven-foot (two-metre) concrete wall.

Tales of Soviet army abuses are legion: secret installations in the forest, bombs gone astray, ditches running black with fuel leaked from military airports, low-flying planes huzzing farms.

Soviet soldiers live rent-free and make slums of the apartments denied Poles in housing-short Legnica. They use the newspaper Pravda to cover windows instead of curtains and throw garbage out the windows. They favour strip shows at the local hotel and remain above Polish law when they commit crimes and cause traffic accidents.

"If the Soviets go home, people in this town will have nothing to talk about," said Grzywek.

Teacher Jolanta Tochnecka sees no safeguard in the Soviets: "Poles know they can rely only on themselves. That was shown in 1983," when the German army invaded after Adolf Hitler and Josef Stalin concluded a non-aggression pact dividing Central Europe.

But despite the slogans that appear ruing "Thanks to the Volga" and one that roughly translates as "Soviets go back to your garbage," Poles in Legnica have a strong economic link with the troops.

Trade

Along with the considerable trade in Soviet gold and TV sets in front of the elegant turn-of-the-century officers' centre, shopkeepers depend on the well-paid soldiers and their families who relish more comfortable five-year tours in Poland, compared with other possible Soviet army posts.

Poles speak gratefully of access to sophisticated hospitals and some other Soviet facilities — they have their own schools, police force, book stores, work cruises — although the two communities are largely separate.

"There are not two sides of town. There are two cities," Grzywek said.

The "temporary" stationing of Soviet troops in Poland resulted from a 1956 agreement that purports to assure Poland's "sovereignty" as well as Soviet payment for upkeep of the Red Army soldiers.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1638 — English settlers arrive at what is now New Haven, Connecticut, U.S.A.
- 1689 — France's King Louis XIV declares war on Spain.
- 1715 — Prussia, Saxony, Poland, Hanover and Denmark form alliance against Sweden, and war is declared.
- 1736 — Baron Theodore of Neuhof is elected king of Corsica.
- 1856 — Britain, France and Austria guarantee integrity and independence of Turkey.
- 1889 — Peasants start uprising in Romania.
- 1891 — Katanga company is formed under Leopold of Belgium's direction to exploit copper deposits.
- 1923 — Insulin, discovered by Canadian Dr Frederick Banting, is made available for general use by diabetes.
- 1927 — Chiang Kai Shek organises government at Nanking in China.
- 1942 — Japanese artillery blasts US positions on Corregidor in Philippines in World War II.
- 1968 — Two unmanned Soviet Sputniks link up while in orbit around earth.
- 1971 — Ceylon government charges that North Korea diplomats are aiding leftist guerrillas, and orders them out of country.
- 1974 — Military coup in West African country of Niger overthrows government of president Hamani Diori.
- 1977 — Protest marches in Pakistan become violent and at least eight people are reported killed.
- 1982 — Five militant Muslim fundamentalists are executed in Egypt as assassins of president Anwar Sadat.
- 1987 — Philippines-flag vessel sailing to Kuwait with load of Australian sheep is attacked and set ablaze by Iranian gunboat in central sector of Gulf.
- 1988 — State of emergency is extended to two additional months in Lima, Peru, to fight rising violence by leftist guerrillas.
- 1989 — Seventy-four people are killed when stadium fence collapsed under crush or crowd at packed soccer match in Sheffield, England.

INSIDE WASHINGTON

By Henry Brandon

Mideast missiles can hit Soviet Union

Arms buildup unnerves Moscow

WASHINGTON: A group of four Soviet Middle East experts has been here on a visit and thrown some interesting light on the latest changes of Soviet policy in the region. Even though these experts do not hold official governmental positions, they said that they are frequently acting as advisers to the government and hence are well informed on official policy.

What worries the Soviet government most about developments in the Middle East is the military threat to Soviet security due to, what they called, "the high militarisation", and the fact that all missiles in the area can reach the Soviet Union. Next is that Muslim fundamentalism could spill over into the Soviet Union and add to the troubles caused by the internal nationalist wave that is currently destabilising Soviet internal affairs.

They stressed that the most effective way to deal with the security problem would be by creating nuclear or chemical free zones under international supervision, best perhaps by the United Nations or by a Soviet-American condominium.

Changes

Basic to the changes in Soviet Middle East policies are the changes in the global outlook introduced by President Gorbachev and the fact that the Soviet Union is not anymore committed to spreading the idea of revolution, but to stability. They also emphasised that the Soviet government accepts American vital interests in the area, especially those concerning the oil supplies in the Gulf and that they generally believe that with the former rivalries between the Soviet Union and the United States fading, it should now be possible to co-operate more closely with Washington in the Middle East. It was, above all, in seeking multilateral settlements, they stressed, even though they admitted that the prospects for a Middle Eastern conference being successful, are rather remote.

Talking about Israel, they said that they discerned signs of a shift among the Arab states away from confrontation, but that two factors are seriously hampering progress in finding a solution: the Palestinian national consciousness together with the intifada movement and the political disunity within Israel. They also expressed the fear that for these reasons Arabs and Israelis may miss the tide of nascent opportunities to find solutions. The Soviets, who do not feel the need to have to rely on Syria as their one ally in the region, are trying to influence it not to provoke an arms race with Israel but to seek some sort solution which should include an

agreement with Lebanon. They warned however that to exclude the Soviet Union from a Middle East settlement would be dangerous.

Despite the militarisation of the Middle East, they stressed the real threat to security in the area and to making progress in finding solutions to the many problems, is terrorism and that there is a need for the Arab countries themselves to deal with this problem because it hurts Arab sympathies in the world.

The Soviet experts were pleased with the contribution their government had made to ending the Iran-Iraq war and expressed the view that it now has good relations with both countries. The Soviets were especially pleased that during the conflict in Azerbaijan the Iranians remained calm and did not seek to aggravate the situation.

Discussing Azerbaijan, they said that the Soviet leadership wants its independence that would be governed by a broad coalition and that the opposition "must be considered a serious partner" in all negotiations. But to the question whether there would be elections, the answer was that a Western type election was impossible, that the next best would be a conference of all the leaders of the various groups that are in control of various limited territories and that there should be no discrimination in their admission to such a conference. It would also be desirable if all arms imports were stopped and some broad disarmament be arranged. There is a major need for economic aid because economically the country is in ruins.

Asked about the growth of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union, they said that there is a party, the Pamyat Party, which openly preaches anti-Semitism, but that it is a small party which has created the impression that anti-Semitism is rampant in the Soviet Union. "The impact," as one put it, "has been much greater than the number would justify." They defended the inclusion of the well known writer Rasputin from Irkutsk in the Presidential Council, saying that he is not close to Gorbachev and will not have any influence in terms of anti-Semitism on governmental decisions. But they also confirmed that their government will expedite Jewish emigration and make direct flights to Israel possible.

Concern about Gorbachev's durability as a leader is growing here. What is particularly disturbing the White House are strong hints, coming from Soviet sources, that for him and his survival the Lithuanian crisis is more important than progress in US-Soviet arms negotiations, which will be the central issue at the forthcoming summit meeting.

This is understandable. The Lithuanian drive for independence has been infectious. It has encouraged other republics to stake similar claims and the Soviet government is now extremely worried that a disintegration of the Soviet Union could indeed follow. The demonstrations in Estonia, Georgia, Moldavia are sheetlightening on the horizon.

Assert

There are also strong indications that the Soviet military who have been quite willing to subject themselves to civilian rule, are trying to assert themselves and their interests which they now believe are too often ignored. They are complaining that with the loss of their Eastern European bases, with the heavy cuts in tanks and missiles ordered unilaterally by Gorbachev, with the virtual uselessness of the Warsaw Pact, their military strategy is in shambles and Soviet security much weakened.

Most of the troops that had to be withdrawn from Afghanistan and Eastern Europe are forced to live in tents because there are not enough military barracks available. This naturally creates a great deal of dissatisfaction among the men and especially among the officers.

They are also reportedly complaining about the arms cuts, conventional and nuclear. Gorbachev proposed because they have been offered without a study how they would affect Soviet military strategy.

American officials believe that these complaints, at least partially, explain what is called here the "hardening" of the positions of the Soviet arms negotiators. From an American viewpoint, it has been relatively easy to register progress in the negotiations because most of the concessions had been offered by the Soviets, in fact, the Americans found it occasionally difficult to keep up with the speed with which the Soviets reduced their forces.

Only earlier this year the Americans (and Prime Minister Thatcher) insisted on replacing the short-range nuclear missiles, stationed in West Germany, with the new Lance missile. In fact, it became quite a thorny issue between the US and the West German government. But by now, with the Soviet troops withdrawing from Eastern Europe this whole issue has become redundant. The same applies to the nuclear artillery shells which have a range of 30 km. They too have become superfluous.

Instead of the Soviet military threat, there is now the problem of how to integrate a unified Germany into a new European security system in order to establish a new kind of stability in Europe.

Nothing will stop US defence cuts

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): Tension over Lithuania's push for independence and fear of chemical and nuclear arms in the Middle East will not slow the drive to cut US military spending, private defence experts say.

What was happening in Lithuania would not reverse the Warsaw Pact's military collapse and there would be plenty of US military power left to face challenges in Third World hotspots even after Pentagon budget cuts proposed by Congress, the experts said.

Iraq's threat to use chemical weapons on Israel, its drive to build a nuclear bomb and long-range rockets and the wide belief that Libya was producing chemical weapons brought nothing new to the argument for cuts in military spending, they added.

"Lithuania notwithstanding, the budget will be cut sharply," said former assistant defence secretary Lawrence Korb, an analyst with the Brookings Institution.

"The chemical problems and the highly-publicised fact that Iraq is trying to build a nuclear bomb and long-range rockets, have been known for some time and that hasn't stopped Congress" in its military budget-cutting drive, said Barry Blechman, of the Johns Hopkins Foreign Policy Institute.

Korb added: "Even if you cut the defence budget by 25 per cent over the coming six years instead of the 10 per cent sought by (Defence Secretary) Dick Cheney, you would have plenty enough firepower to handle the likes of Libya and Iraq."

Korb, Blechman and Gordon Adams, of the Centre on Budget and Policy Studies, were asked about Cheney's recent warning that Soviet defence cuts might be reversed and that America needed military budgets topping \$300 billion and major new arms to control global troublespots.

"But the B-2 bomber is irrelevant to Lithuania, Libya and Iraq," Korb said, noting that many Congressmen were demanding reductions of the air force request for 132 of the "Stealth" bombers which cost \$530 million each.

Adams said that if Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev ordered a bloody crackdown in Lithuania it could create a political backlash in Congress and bring the drive for Pentagon spending cuts "to a

screeching halt."

But such a tough Soviet move was unlikely. "Even congressional conservatives like Republican Senators William Cohen and John McCain want to almost double the two per cent annual military cuts Cheney has offered over the five years from 1992 through 1997."

Cohen said in an editorial page article in the Washington Post this week that the airforce's

proposed 65-billion-dollar advanced tactical fighter programme and a successor to the Lance battlefield nuclear missile "should be viewed as prime candidates for cuts."

Both systems, Cohen said, were designed for future deterrence in Europe where the threat from the East is shrinking daily as countries that once marched to Moscow's tune as Soviet satellites go democratic.



Letters to the editor

Joint venture

SIR: This is in reference to the letter published by AT/9, under the title, "Approb. role." For general information the function in which Funkada collaborated with PAC veterans, on March 22 at the Shaq Co-operative Hall, was a joint venture and has nothing to do with Approb.

The success of the function, attended by about 400 guests invited free of cost, is attributed to the P.A.C. veterans as well as Funkada, which the writer of the same letter mischievously described in his letter (AT 25-3-90) as a one-man group.

The allegations of the writer implicating Approb are uncalled for. This is just to set the record straight.

Zulfikar Ahmed
Funkada,
Kuwait.

Biased information

SIR: I'm writing in reference to an article which appeared at the end of this week entitled "Joy ends in tragedy." This article was discussing the very real problem of maternal death during childbirth, and how this problem occurs especially frequently in underdeveloped countries; this article was specifically referring to Pakistan. All of this is fine, and factual as well — except for one point.

The article stated that the blame for this problem lies with the fact that Pakistan is overwhelmingly Muslim. In other words, the claim is that Islam is the cause of

uneducation, ignorance, uncleanness, lack of family planning, degradation of women economically and personally, etc., etc., and ultimately, the insidious idea, that Islam is the cause of the deaths of these women. Unfortunately, most people reading this article, here and all over the world, will take the truth of this statement for granted, and another page in the book of spreading propaganda against Islam will have been added to the already existing volumes.

Now, we are obligated to clear up the slander and expose the truth. With regards to all of the accusations Islam is innocent of them all, and, on the contrary, Islam is actually the cure for all of the diseases mentioned above.

Islam shuns lack of education on the part of every individual, including women, especially women, as they are the ones who raise the future generations. Islam disdains ignorance, and all people are strongly urged to seek knowledge of all types, all the time, and to never tire in doing so.

Islam despises uncleanness, and, in fact, is the only doctrine that orders people to wash up to 5 times a day for prayers, as well as cleansing upon waking, before and after eating, after going to the bathroom, and has strongly recommended brushing the teeth up to 5 times a day at least. Islam ordained many, many rules of hygiene never known before Islam, and even in the "developed cultured West" there is no such cleanliness even today.

Islam has never recommended that women have babies every nine months or every year. In fact, Islam recommends that the mother breast feeds her child for 2 years, and thus it has been recommended to avoid becoming pregnant during the lactating period. This

creates a natural spacing between children of at least 2 years and 9 months.

Also, most birth control is fine, according to Islamic injunctions, except for those forms which work by causing abortions, and, of course, in Islam, abortion is prohibited outright, unless it is ascertained that the mother will die if the pregnancy continues, in which case she must abort the baby, because, in Islam the mother's life is more important.

In Islam women have been raised up in rank and respect, rather than being degraded. Islam gives women rights that far surpasses any man-made rights that have ever been invented, while, at the same time, taking into consideration the nature of women themselves, as well as the entire society.

In reality, Islam is the solution to these problems and all of the other problems facing the world today, and at any point in the future, because Islam is for all times, with no economic or social barriers.

So, in order to solve the problem of high maternal death rates in Pakistan, as well as the rest of South Asia, and the rest of the Third World the key is to educate the people, especially the men, on the real tenets, beliefs, and teachings of Islam, and that is the only way to solve the problem.

Mia Pozzo
Safat

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Norwegian government survives

OSLO, (Reuters): One politician ate his hat after betting that Norway's government would collapse in four months. While most of the hat went down, the government didn't.

The lost bet and the surfacing of some bizarre-sounding alliances in Parliament show that Norway's tradition of consensus is surviving despite an electorate hungry for radical change.

In general elections last September, voters signalled they were sick of the "consensus" politics on which Norway built a model welfare state with wealth from North Sea oil. They dumped traditional parties and plumped for the radical right and left.

But the minority centre-right government formed in October has defied predictions of a quick collapse by juggling fragile alliances around the weakened centre. No-one, however, is promising it will survive a full four-year term.

Radicals

Erik Solheim, leader of the Socialist Left Party, one of two radical parties with sharp gains in the election, had to eat his hat — literally — when he lost a bet that conservative Prime Minister Jan Syse would not last four months.

He shedded the felt hat to make it easier to chew.

"I cooked it like spaghetti, with olive oil," Solheim said. "It was a normal hat and didn't taste too good. But I didn't eat all of it."

"I do not think the Norwegian population is very radical in any meaningful sense," Solheim said. He declined to predict a new date for a government collapse.

"I think we will survive for this (four-year) period," said Foreign Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik, leader of the Christian People's Party, one of three parties in the ruling coalition. "But I cannot give a guarantee, we don't know," he told Reuters.

The coalition has only 62 of 165 seats in Parliament and depends for a majority on the party of a maverick right — ger who dislikes the cosy politics of the p

"I want to break out of the mould of consensus politics," said Carl Hagen, leader of the rightist Progress Party, whose support slipped to 22 seats from two in the last election. Solheim's socialists won 17 seats from six before.

All other parties lost ground. But the mathematical freak of voters deserting the centre in almost equal numbers means Syse's government is only fractionally riskier of the former Labour administration under Gro Harlem Brundtland.

"The policies pursued (by the new government) are basically the same (as Labour's)," Hagen told Reuters. But "at least they talk about different objectives."

The coalition refused to let Hagen into the government after the elections, viewing him as an extremist and rejecting his anti-tax and anti-welfare stance. Some opponents brand him a racist — a charge he denies — for admitting tight limits on immigration.

Hagen said that despite the grip of consensus politics, the government was moving heavily. Syse aims to cut taxes, scale down the welfare state and sell off state companies.

The Conservative Party is seeing it as a threat and is copying our policies... they are going in our direction, of course not at the speed and the amount we want."

He predicted that the coalition would fall without him pushing it well before 1995 — over internal wrangling between the three parties over whether to join the European Economic Community.

"Now is the time for change in the world," Hagen said, referring to democratic reform sweeping Eastern Europe. He said the Scandinavian model of high welfare spending was discredited and that voters wanted lower taxes and free markets.

The Progress Party won support by playing on disillusionment with taxes, excessive welfare and fears that immigration could push up unemployment. The welfare state is under strain from an ageing population and dwindling workforce.

The Socialist Left Party offered radical stands against Norway joining the European Economic Community, promised to help the needy in Norway, increase aid to developing nations, cut defence spending and pass tougher environmental laws.

One factor underpinning consensus politics in Norway is that the constitution limits elections to one every four years, meaning politicians have a choice of co-operation or chaos.

"Basically Norway is a very conservative society — not in the sense of right or left, but in the way that we do not like rapid change in either direction," Solheim said.

Also, Norwegians do not need radical solutions as they have relatively minor problems. North Sea oil guarantees Norway's \$4.2 million people one of the highest standards of living in the world.

But the oil price collapse in 1986 and subsequent economic slowdown set off alarm about Norway's reliance on oil. Norway produces around 1.7 million barrels a day and has reserves to keep going at this rate for more than 20 years.

Even though the Progress Party and the Socialist Left are at opposite ends of Norwegian politics, in early April they forged brief alliances along with the Labour Party to push for higher spending on old people.

The ruling coalition has one parliamentary seat fewer than the Labour Party. After the elections, Hagen co-operated with the three parties to ensure they could block Brundtland from staying on as prime minister in an alliance with Solheim.

Hagen brought down the last minority centre-right government in 1986. The Progress Party, which also held the balance of power in the last Parliament, voted against a petroleum tax.

The vote let the Labour Party take over. It promptly raised petroleum taxes, and kept power until last October.

But the 1986 vote "was the basis of our success," Hagen said. "It showed we had guts to do something" and break away from consensus.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Market watch

3 indices dip

Gloom still prevails

THE Alshall Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 39.86 points with a decrease of 0.10 point — 0.25 per cent — from last week's average. The Alshall Index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 63.10 points with a decrease of 1.95 points — 3.0 per cent — for the same period, according to Alshall weekly market review.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 13.14 million shares at a daily average of 2.63 million shares which is the same of previous week's. Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 0.944 million shares at a daily average of 0.189 million shares with an increase of 15 per cent over last week's daily average of 0.164 million shares. The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD4.88 million at a daily average of KD0.98 million, an increase of 1 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.97 million.

The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.031 million at a daily average of KD0.006 million, a decrease of 25 per cent from last week's daily average of KD0.008 million.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector came first at 59 per cent of total trading against 60 per cent last week. Kuwait Finance House had the lead at 27 per cent, followed by the National Bank of Kuwait at 21 per cent and the Gulf Bank at 16 per cent. The investment sector came second at 22 per cent in which Coast Investment & Development Company had the lead at 57 per cent followed by Commercial Facilities Company at 32 per cent and Kuwait Investment Projects Company at 11 per cent. The services sector came third at 14 per cent in which Kuwait Commercial Markets Complex Company had the lead at 46 per cent followed by Mobile Telephone System Company at 20 per cent, and Kuwait Computer Company at 15 per cent. As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Umm Al Quin Cement Industries Company had the lead at 42 per cent, followed by Bahrain Middle East Bank and Arabian General Investment Company (Shua'a) at 26 per cent each, and Bahrain International Bank at 5 per cent.

The shares market continued to give signs of weakness which was reflected on three of the six indices while the fourth remained at the same level as last week's and the remaining two increased. This weakness was clear in both Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti markets and remained so in spite of the declaration of the approval of the investment and real estate fund's legislation which only led to keeping share prices at the same levels.

We do not expect that the declaration is going to affect price increase at the present, however, this will happen when the funds start trading in the local market especially if trading is concentrated on certain companies shares. These funds could boost the market if they trade in new projects or already established individual companies together with a sound administrative and financial structure and finally if these funds are listed in the official market and then traded.

| Kuwait shareholding companies index | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Wed. 11/04/90 | Wed. 04/04/90 | Change points |
| Banking Sector | | | |
| The National Bk. | 129.20 | 129.20 | — |
| The Gulf Bk. | 31.31 | 31.31 | — |
| The Comm. Bk. | 25.03 | 25.03 | — |
| Al Ahli Bk. | 30.78 | 31.29 | -0.50 |
| Bk of Kt & ME | 30.12 | 30.12 | — |
| Kuwait R. Est. Bk. | 29.35 | 29.35 | — |
| Burgan Bk. | 26.53 | 27.06 | -0.52 |

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| Kt Finance House | 82.62 | 81.72 | 0.90 |
| Sector Index | 49.74 | 49.83 | -0.10 |
| Inv. Sector | | | |
| Kuwait Inv. Co. | 8.72 | 8.72 | — |
| Kt. Int. Inv. Co. | 8.59 | 8.59 | — |
| IIFA | 24.19 | 24.19 | — |
| Comm. Facilities | 160.33 | 162.25 | -1.93 |
| National Inv. | 55.88 | 55.88 | — |
| Kt. Inv. Proj. | 89.89 | 88.76 | 1.12 |
| Coast Inv. & Dev. | 84.71 | 83.53 | 1.18 |
| Sector Index | 32.04 | 32.02 | 0.02 |
| Ins. Sector | | | |
| Kt. Ins. Co. | 34.68 | 35.88 | -1.20 |
| Gulf Ins. Co. | 23.08 | 23.08 | — |
| Al Ahlia Ins. | 52.31 | 50.18 | 2.14 |
| Warba Ins. Co. | 51.03 | 50.69 | 0.34 |
| Sector Index | 35.37 | 35.63 | -0.26 |
| Real Est. Sec. | | | |
| Kt. Real Est. | 12.11 | 12.11 | — |
| Utd. Realty | 5.16 | 4.98 | 0.19 |
| Nat. Real Est. | 39.42 | 39.42 | — |
| Pearl of Kt. | 62.70 | 63.49 | -0.79 |
| Sector Index | 15.18 | 15.13 | 0.05 |
| Ind. Sector | | | |
| Kt. Cmt. Co. | 10.22 | 10.22 | — |
| Ref. Ind. | 84.55 | 84.55 | — |
| Gulf Cables | 113.13 | 113.13 | — |
| Kt. Pharm. | 60.44 | 60.44 | — |
| Sector Index | 28.90 | 28.90 | — |
| Services Sector | | | |
| Kt. Cmtpr. Co. | 131.76 | 131.76 | — |
| Kt. Cinema Co. | 7.32 | 7.13 | 0.19 |
| Pub. W'house Co. | 56.57 | 60.61 | -0.04 |
| Kt. Comm. M.Co. | 37.75 | 37.29 | 0.46 |
| M. Tele. Syst. | 355.01 | 360.00 | -5.00 |
| Sector Index | 58.39 | 59.59 | -1.20 |
| Food Sector | | | |
| L. Trad. & Transp. | 29.29 | 29.29 | — |
| Utd. Fisheries | 11.05 | 11.05 | — |
| Kt. Utd. Poultry | 110.01 | 110.01 | — |
| Kt. Food Co. | 75.86 | 75.86 | — |
| Sector Index | 39.88 | 39.88 | — |
| Overall Index | 39.86 | 39.95 | -0.10 |

Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index

| | Wed. 11/04/90 | Wed. 04/04/90 | Change points |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| First G. Bk. | 236.94 | 236.84 | 0.10 |
| Bah. Intl. Bk. | 81.38 | 82.76 | -1.38 |
| Bah. M.E. Bk. | 86.37 | 94.92 | -8.54 |
| A. Gen. Inv. (Shua'a) | 43.94 | 43.94 | — |
| Umm Al Q. Cmt. | 18.37 | 18.00 | 0.37 |
| G. Med. Proj. | 13.13 | 13.13 | — |
| Total Index | 63.10 | 65.05 | -1.95 |

—Base period 31/12/1983.
—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.

'Opec quota system must stay'

KUWAIT, April 14, (Reuters) Iraq's oil minister was quoted today as saying his country was against cancelling the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' quota system.

Yassam Abdul-Rahim Al Chalabi, in an interview with a local daily, said the drop in oil prices since the start of the year of around \$2.5 per barrel, showed the negative impact of Opec over-production.

Chalabi said demand for Opec oil was considerably lower than Opec members' production capacity.

"Desired stability in the market was causing concern which requires continued programming of production by members of Opec in the coming period so that Opec restores its capacity to consolidate this stability," he added.

Chalabi said "the deterioration in official prices of oil in the market since the first week of this year until now, and which has exceeded \$2.5 per barrel, shows clearly the negative impact of its production capacity on price levels."

"Oil price drop could increase in seasons that witness a decrease in the level of demand on Opec oil because of seasonal factors."

"This increases the necessity of abiding by the quotas set, and shows without doubt the importance of limiting and programming production to balance supply and demand, especially that real average prices of Opec's basket are much lower than the \$18."

"For these reasons we do not support the position that calls for cancelling the quota system in Opec and leaving the matter of setting levels of production for every member country because this will intensify the competition between Opec countries ... and will put increasing pressures on prices and as a consequence increase the instability of the market, a matter that is against the aims of producers and consumers alike."

"We are not sure during the last twenty years has the ten-year return from the UK market been negative. Once again the worst return came in the period ending in 1974. If the 1964 investor could

Expat finance

Long-term financial security

By Tony Mustafa
Overseas Financial Services

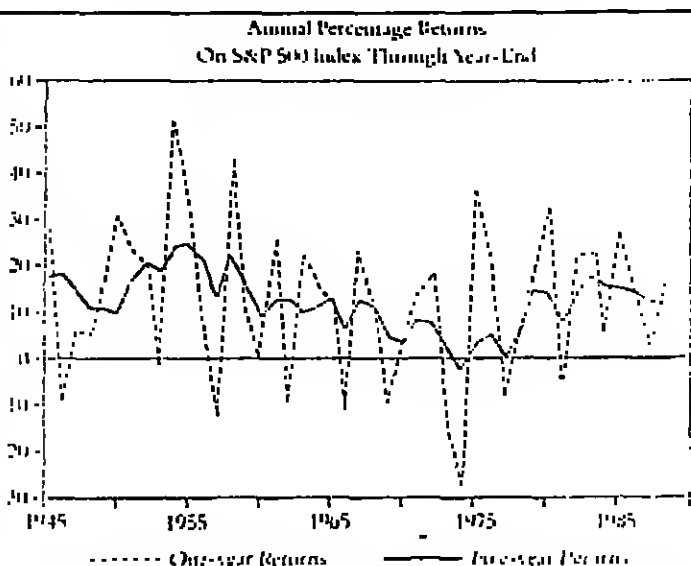
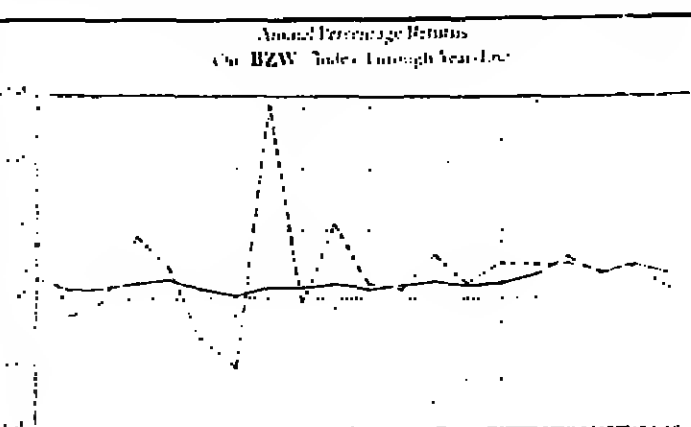
HISTORICAL evidence clearly demonstrates that long-term equity investment provides returns comfortably in excess of the return that a bank or building society can offer — and returns that more than keep pace with the cost of living.

The investor "pays" for his high return by accepting the risk that in the short-term his capital could be reduced by a stock-market setback. In the wake of any equity-based investment ought to realise that they may be sacrificing their long-term financial security for short-term peace of mind.

The two graphs which below illustrate this point. The one-year returns from the stock market vary considerably from the highs of 1975 or 1980 to the lows of 1969 or 1974. An investor should never assume that his investment will be profitable on a one-year timescale.

On a five-year or ten-year perspective, however, the odds of making a profitable investment are enormously favourable. The underlying upwards trend ensures that the increases are bigger and more frequent than the declines. Only once in the last 43 years has the five-year total return (capital growth plus dividends) from the US market been negative — in 1974, covering the period 1969 — 1974 which included severe bear markets in both 1969 and 1974.

At no time during the last twenty years has the ten-year return from the UK market been negative. Once again the worst return came in the period ending in 1974. If the 1964 investor could



have realised his investment in 1975 however, rather than at the trough of the bear market in 1974, he would have registered an annual percentage return of 9.2 per cent over those eleven years. The message should be made clear — the long-term investor should not be deterred from equity-based investment by the apparent risks of short-term volatility.

Prices could double in Moscow

MOSCOW, April 14, (Reuters) Prices could double in the Soviet Union by next year under proposals being considered by parliament, the head of a parliamentary commission on economic reform said yesterday.

But retail prices are not expected to rise until January at the earliest and the changes will be discussed in parliament in the coming months so that consumers will know what to expect, Pavel Bunich said.

His comments seemed somewhat at odds with statements by President Mikhail Gorbachev, who this week said he was prepared to use his new executive powers — by passing parliament if necessary — to implement economic reforms "in the coming days."

Bunich told a news conference the commission was considering proposals to deregulate 70 per cent of prices and privatise 70 per cent of the Soviet state sector.

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East, West Germans still at loggerheads

FRANKFURT, West Germany, April 14, (Reuters) East German politicians and West Germany's powerful central bank, the Bundesbank, publicly clashed today over terms for a monetary union between the two states, prelude to full political unity.

The Bundesbank has called for a general swap rate of two East German marks for one West German mark when the West German mark is introduced in East Germany in a currency union expected later this year.

But two East German ministers in a coalition approved by East Berlin's newly-elected parliament on Thursday said in newspaper interviews today the East German mark must be exchanged at par. Bundesbank deputy president Helmut Schlesinger said in an interview with the Munich-based daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung a one-to-one swap rate would bring risks of higher prices and wages, which could prompt a restrictive Bundesbank monetary policy throughout Germany.

He denied that a Bundesbank proposal, allowing

for the first 2,000 marks (\$1,200) of personal savings to be swapped at par, would lead to halving in real East German wage levels.

The interview with Schlesinger was published on the same day as statements by new East German Finance Minister Walter Romberg and Interior Minister Peter-Michael Diestel.

"The West German government must realise there is no understanding among East Germans for any other exchange rate except one-for-one," Romberg told Die Welt newspaper.

ABDUL AZIZ AL QATAMI Residential Complex

AL MANGAF

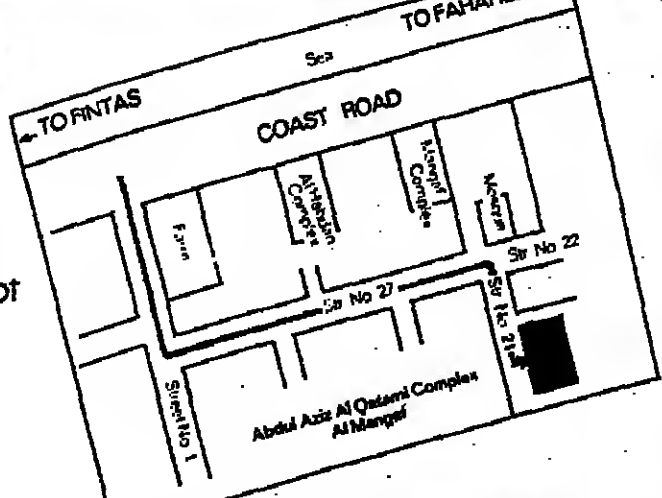
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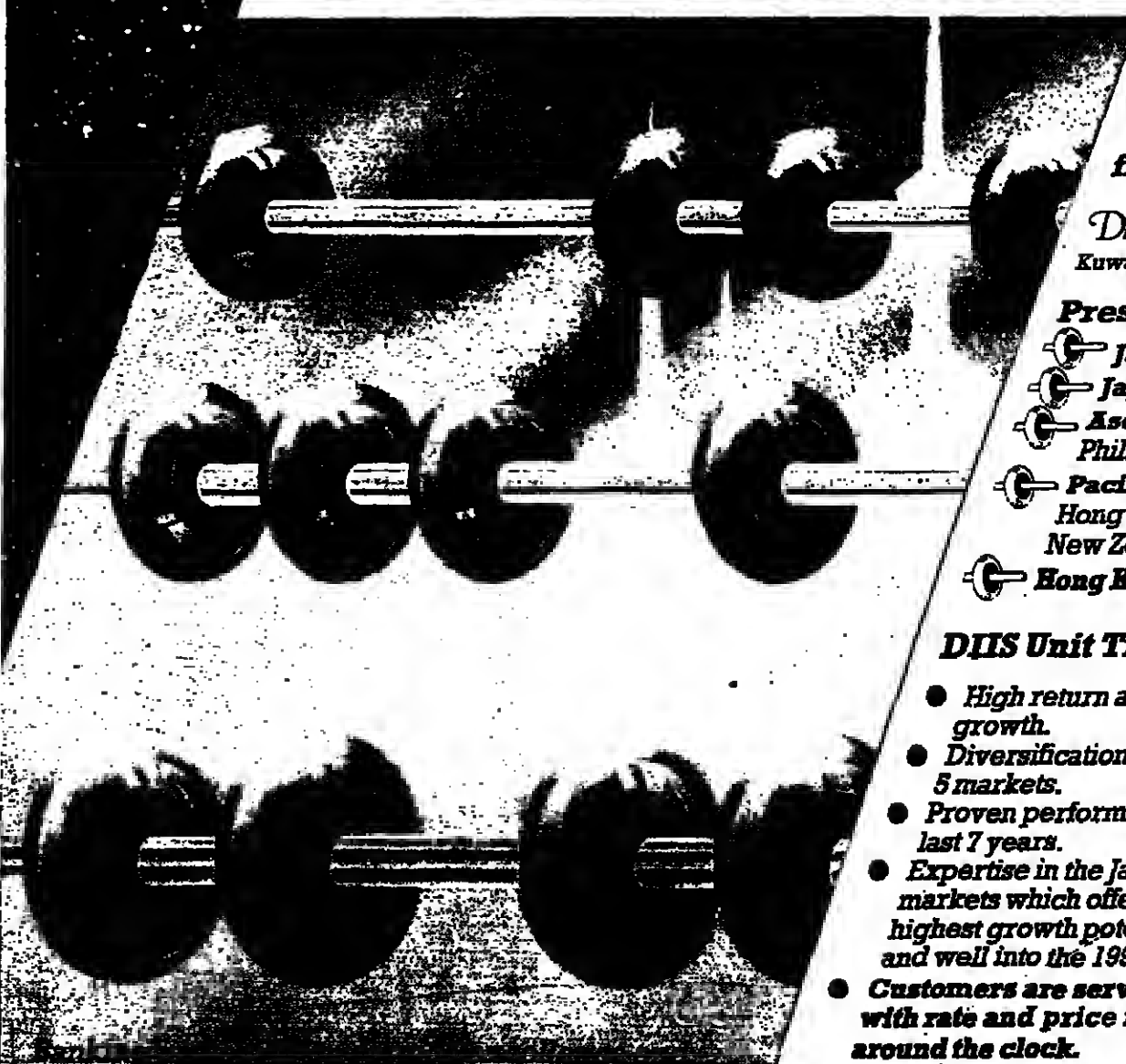
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- Gardens
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FINDING NEW WAYS TO HELP YOU.

BUSINESS

Boeing Co., Japanese to build new jetliner

LOS ANGELES, April 14, (Reuters): Boeing Co., the world's largest aircraft producer, said on Friday that it would give three Japanese subcontractors a major role in building its proposed 767-X wide-body jet, but it did not give them an equity stake in the project as had been expected.

Boeing's original plan to give the subcontractors an equity stake of 20 to 25 per cent had sparked criticism from Congressmen and others who feared the impact of a growing Japanese interest in aircraft building. The company said on Friday that it had reached a tentative agreement under which three of Japan's industrial giants would provide 15 to 20 per cent of the new plane's fuselage.

The companies are Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd and Fuji Heavy Industries, which have been subcontractors for Boeing for 20 years.

The 767-X, which will be called the 777 as soon as airlines place their first orders, will seat 350 to 370 passengers and will feature a new wing, wider fuselage and high-efficiency turbofan engines. It will be bigger than the 767 but smaller than the four-engine 747 jumbo jet.

Critics contend that the Japanese companies have been seeking a partnership only to gain experience so they can one day seek to dominate an industry that is now 80 per cent controlled by US producers. Boeing alone has an estimated 60 per cent of the market for big commercial jetliners.

Under the agreement, the Japanese companies will have a role in building the fuselage for the plane but will not be involved in the more important areas of wing construction. "The key technology is in the wing construction, and Boeing was not about to give that away," said Howard Rubel of the brokerage C.J. Lawrence.

Boeing hopes to roll the first of the 777s off the assembly line by 1995 if the plane is formally launched.

The plane faces stiff competition because it will compete directly with two planes already in the works by its two biggest rivals, McDonnell Douglas Corp of St Louis and Airbus Industrie of Europe.

The 777 will compete with Douglas MD-11 Trijet and the Airbus A330 and A340. Over 300 firm orders already have been placed for those models, putting Boeing in the position of having to catch up.

Boeing previously said Japanese partners could help defray the \$3-billion cost of bringing the 777 from the drawing board to the runway and attract Japanese airline customers.

Wall Street watch

Some see sneaky soft landing

Fed may be avoiding any overt changes in its credit policy

NEW YORK, April 14, (AP): If you don't like the way the economy looks on the charts of Wall Street economists, just wait an hour or two.

In keeping with the spring weather in the environs of New York City, the prevailing forecast of the business and investment outlook seems especially changeable right now.

Within the past few weeks alone,

recession fears have faded amid signs of gradually reviving growth, only to be replaced by new worries about a slump induced by a shrinking supply of credit.

Consumers, meanwhile, are variously portrayed as all spent out, restocking their depleted pocketbooks, or ready to launch a new assault on the malls.

Some observers believe all this tur-

bulence may have distracted the attention of many participants in the stock and bond markets from a favourable development of more than passing significance.

It is just possible, they say, that the economy has experienced its long-awaited "soft landing" almost unnoticed.

If that is indeed the case, Federal

Reserve-watchers add, people who worry that the Fed is trapped in a tight spot between the conflicting perils of inflation and recession could be missing an important point.

They suggest that the Fed maybe avoiding any overt changes in its credit policy right now simply because it is satisfied, maybe even pleased, with the way things stand.

It is axiomatic in the financial world that whenever things are moving in a favourable direction, there is usually some prominent and highly publicized worry to serve as a sort of smoke screen.

In the optimists' view, that purpose is being fulfilled right now by talk of a "credit crunch" arising from a risk-averse mood among bankers and other would-be lenders, including those who

once were eager buyers of junk bonds. "If tougher lending practices are now producing a serious credit crunch, then an economy-wide recession could unfold," says Edward Yarden, economist at Prudential-Bache Securities.

"However, we aren't convinced that the current credit crunch is severe enough to cause an economy-wide recession."

The week in business

US economy is bumbling along

NEW YORK, April 14, (UPI): Government statistics this week showed wholesale prices dropped in March for the first monthly decline since August, and retail sales dropped for the second straight monthly decline in more than three years.

The Labour Department said Friday wholesale prices fell 0.2 per cent in March, with food and energy prices tumbling.

Producer prices for fresh vegetables set a record, plunging 25.5 per cent after soaring in January and February. March gasoline prices fell 2.8 per cent, but the cost of home heating oil increased 10.6 per cent after dropping 30.2 per cent in February.

The March decline in the producer price index followed no change in the closely watched economic indicator in February, and a 1.8 per cent jump in January.

Excluding food and energy prices, producer prices edged up 0.3 per cent in March, following gains of 0.4 per cent in February and 0.1 per cent in January.

U.S. retail sales fell 0.6 per cent in March for the second straight monthly decline in more than three years, the Commerce Department said yesterday.

Analysts say they had been expecting a small increase and the decline was unexpected. The March decrease was the largest monthly drop since a 1.4 per cent fall last October — and provided further evidence that America's economy is bumbling along.

On Wednesday, the Commerce Department said American businesses are planning to increase spending on plants and equipment by 7.6 per cent in 1990, the lowest increase in three years.

The slowdown reflects the sluggish economy, especially in the auto industry and related fabricated metals business where capital spending is expected to fall off during the year.

Healthy capital spending growth, however, is expected in the non-manufacturing sector of the economy.

A report by the department's Census Bureau estimated that real spending — capital spending adjusted to remove inflation — will total \$303 billion as against \$468 billion in 1989, an increase of 8.6 per cent over the previous year.

The 7.6 per cent increase in real spending for plants and equipment was the lowest since a gain of 4.2 per cent in 1987, the department said.

The United States signed a trade agreement Thursday with Czechoslovakia — the first with one of the new democracies of central and Eastern Europe.

The treaty gives each signatory most-favoured-nation status, including preferential treatment on tariffs and currency convertibility. There are also side letters on trade and finances, intellectual property protection and tourism.

Pepsi-Cola signed a \$3 billion deal Monday to more than double production and sales of soft drinks in the Soviet Union in exchange for at least 10 Soviet-built ships and the rights to sell more Stolichnaya vodka in the United States.

Pepsi executive committee chairman Robert Kendall called the deal the largest trade pact ever between a US company and the Soviet Union.

The barrier arrangement is necessary because Soviet law prohibits foreign companies from taking profits out of the country to hard currency and the Soviet ruble is not convertible into other currencies.

Starkist Seafood Co., the world's largest tuna canner, said Thursday it will not purchase any tuna captured in nets along with dolphins nor will it buy any fish caught with gill or drift nets.

Starkist, owned by H.J. Heinz Co. of Pittsburgh, will become the first major tuna company to sell only "dolphin-safe" tuna for human and cat consumption.

Heinz said the decision will cost consumers "a couple of cents" extra on each can of tuna.

American wholesale prices decline

WASHINGTON, April 14, (Reuters): Wholesale prices fell 0.2 per cent in March after remaining unchanged in February to provide two months of improvement in inflation at the wholesale level, the US Labour Department said yesterday.

Food and energy costs led the March decline in the producer price index (PPI), the first in seven months. Producer prices are closely watched as a harbinger of future consumer price changes.

Food and energy costs had soared in January when wholesale prices registered their biggest jump ever — 1.8 per cent — due to unusually cold weather.

While the reversal should mean relief for consumers, the PPI excluding food and energy rose 0.3 per cent last month after a 0.4 per cent rise in February.

"Underlying inflation is not really decelerating. It is just hovering there," said Donald Ratajczak, director of economic forecasting at Georgia State University in Atlanta.

The PPI has risen 4.4 per cent over the year, while inflation at the consumer level has been running at 4.5 per cent, about half a percentage point below the level of a year ago.

The Federal Reserve board is likely to consider those numbers too high and will probably not allow interest rates to fall any time soon, analysts said.

A slowdown in economic activity appears to have halted some of the rise in prices but has not eliminated inflation.

The March decline in the PPI surprised Wall Street economists who had forecast a rise of 0.1 per cent in the PPI.

But with the stock and bond markets closed for Good Friday, there was no reaction in the financial markets.

Sales surge

Business inventories dip

WASHINGTON, April 14, (AP): US business inventories fell in February for the second time in three months while sales surged, the government said yesterday in a report signalling some rebound in the economy.

The combination of surging sales and falling inventories is a sign of economic strength. A buildup in inventories, on the other hand, can be a warning of recession. Retailers and wholesalers with too many goods on hand cut orders. Factories then crimp production and lay off workers.

Inventories on shelves and backlots fell 0.4 per cent, the steepest drop since December 1986, to a seasonally adjusted \$794.6 billion in February, the latest month for which figures are available, the Commerce Department reported.

Sales, meanwhile, rose 1.3 per cent to a seasonally adjusted \$535.4 billion. It was the largest increase in seven months. All of the strength came in manufacturing, the sector of the economy that had been most affected by sluggishness resulting from the Federal Reserve Board's high interest rate policy.

A month earlier, business sales rose a modest 0.4 per cent, while inventories increased 0.3 per cent.

The February activity sharply reduced the ratio of business inventories to sales to 1.48, down from 1.51 in January. That means it would take 1.48 months to exhaust inventories at the February sales pace.

The inventory decline was steepest at retailers, where backlogs dropped 0.9 per cent. Auto dealers, despite sluggish sales, reduced their stock of cars by 2.2 per cent.

Wholesale inventories declined 0.2 per cent while factory backlogs edged down 0.1 per cent.

Manufacturing sales surged 3.3 per cent in February, while retail sales fell 0.3 per cent and wholesale sales declined 0.1 per cent.

Unique achievement

SBI obtains credit ratings

THE State Bank of India (SBI) had obtained credit ratings from the two internationally reputed agencies, viz. Moody's Investors Service and Standard and Poor's Corporation. It is understood from SBI now that both these agencies have recently re-affirmed the ratings assigned by them to SBI in 1988. Moody's has confirmed the short-term rating of Prime-1 (P-1) and long-term rating of A-2 assigned by them in 1988.

The agency has also confirmed the long-term rating of A-2 given to India. Standard and Poor's has confirmed the short-term rating of A-2 to the bank. However, they are yet to announce a long-term rating to India/SBI and are expected to do so in 1990.

Based on the ratings, SBI has successfully launched a US Commercial Paper programme for \$500 million; the programme which started with a sum of \$200 million was increased to \$500 million within a period of one year. The ratings have also been extended to SBI's Euro-commercial Super Programme for \$200 million. Further, SBI has set up a medium term note issue programme for \$300 million in the USA. The response for SBI's papers from the investor community has been favourable.

The ratings from the international agencies secured by SBI serve to prove SBI's distinctive position in the group of commercial banks from the developing world and would enhance SBI's reputation considerably.

America, Prague sign trade agreement

WASHINGTON, April 14, (AP): Officials of the United States and Czechoslovakia signed a trade agreement Thursday, the second economic pact negotiated by the United States with an Eastern European nation since last year's political upheavals.

The new accord is one of the steps needed to cut tariffs on Czech products sold in the United States. The document also seeks to foster increased business ties and tourism between the two nations.

US Trade representative Carla Hills participated in the signing ceremony along with Andrej Baresk, Czechoslovakia's Minister of Foreign Trade.

Hills said legislation to lower tariffs into place would be completed by early summer.

The United States is also negotiating a trade agreement with the Soviet Union and this said she was optimistic that the pact could be finished before the May 30 summit meeting in Washington between US President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Both the Czechoslovak and Soviet trade agreements are necessary steps if the United States is to grant the countries "most favoured nation" trade status. That designation would lower American tariffs to the level charged against most major trading partners.

US tariffs on products from the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia now run as much as 10 times higher than on goods from other countries.

The higher tariffs were imposed as part of the Jackson-Vanik trade amendment of 1974, which Congress passed in retaliation for communist restrictions imposed on the free emigration of Jews and dissidents.

Before tariffs can be lowered, the trade agreements must be in place and Bush must certify that both countries permit free emigration. Both Houses of Congress must approve the trade agreements.

Suggested measures in a presidential order circulated last week also included no more buying of expensive furniture and inviting foreign dignitaries to the country unnecessarily, officials said on Thursday.

They did not say how the government hoped to save but linked the scheme to poor revenue in the current financial year.

A similar austerity drive was ordered after floods in 1987 and 1988 ravaged Bangladesh, but hardly anyone heeded it.

Maybe the current initiative will meet with the same fate despite sincere wishes of the president. In this land, implementation of orders are never monitored sincerely, said one official, who requested anonymity.

US team to go to Baghdad

WASHINGTON, April 14, (Reuters): US Agriculture Department (USDA) officials will go to Iraq within the next week to discuss problems with export credit guarantees to that country and will not offer more credits until the problems are resolved.

The Department of Agriculture is continuing its administrative review, begun several months ago, into possible irregularities in transactions relating to past GSM programmes with Iraq.

Agriculture Undersecretary Richard Crowder said in a statement.

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MR. HAMED AL SAIF, CHAIRMAN OF KMEFIC

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- * Balanced diversification to achieve a respectable return on investment commensurate with an acceptable level of risk;



Mr. Hamed S. Al-Saif, the Chairman of KMEFIC and a Board member of The Bank of Kuwait and the Middle East (BKME) announced the introduction of two new and exciting additions to the AL-AWSAT family of Funds. Due to the high investors' interest in the AL-AWSAT Fund and the Company's continuous commitment to offer new and profitable investment opportunities, the AL-AWSAT Fund has been expanded to include:

- * The Europe Equity Fund
- * The Far East Equity Fund

During our interview with Mr. Hamed Al-Saif, he gave us the following background about KMEFIC, its activities and its objectives:

KMEFIC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of BKME, was initiated in 1984 to offer a broad range of investment products and services. The Company is capitalised at KD. 10 million and draws upon the resources of a skilled management and technical staff capable of recognising and responding to innovative investment opportunities and tailoring them to suit local investors, both individual and institutional. At present, the Company's diversified services encompass a wide

range of investment Funds including those in real estate, venture capital, direct investment and equities and debt securities.

The Management of the Company believes in the significant opportunities and potential currently available in the financial markets of Europe and the Far East, and have therefore introduced the following two Funds:

The Europe Equity Fund:

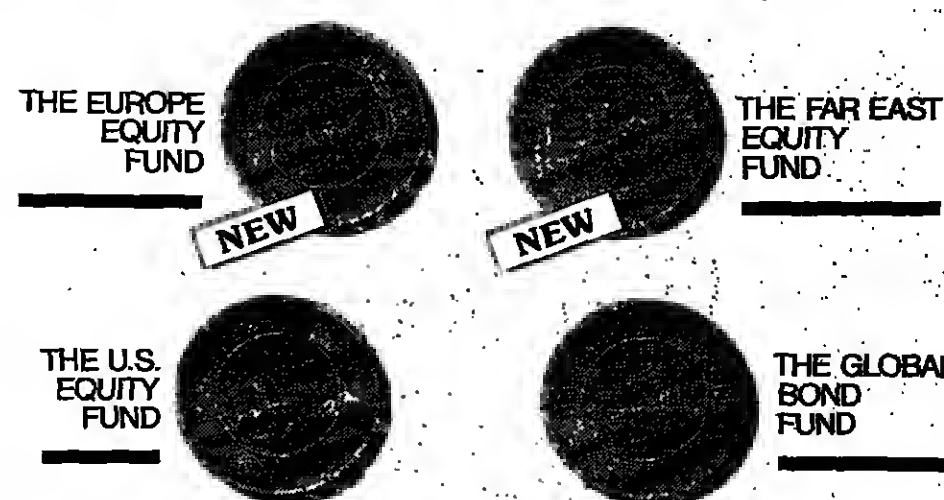
This Fund was initiated to benefit from the unique and non-recurring changes taking place in preparation for a unified European market in 1992. Presently, European economies are witnessing increased economic activity in the form of takeovers, partnerships and mergers & acquisitions as companies prepare themselves for the upcoming competitive onslaught. As always, such unique investment opportunities must be seized quickly in order to reap the maximum rewards. The Fund's flexible nature allows it not only to invest in all major European markets but also to a limited extent, in selected aspiring nations of Eastern Europe.

The Far East Equity Fund:

This Fund was created to capitalize

on the spectacular performance and high growth rates the Far East region has to offer. During the past decade, this region has justifiably attracted the interest of foreign investors which contributed to the overwhelming rise in the region's equity markets. It is our belief that such levels of growth and equity market returns should continue during the nineties, and hence this Fund was established to benefit from the increasing sophistication of the area's financial markets as well as its stable economic, social and political climates.

With these recent additions, the AL-Awsat Fund offers the investor a global investment product with the choice of investing in stocks and/or bonds in all major international markets. In addition, the flexible "umbrella" structure of AL-AWSAT Fund allows conversion, free of charge, among the four sub-funds (U.S. Equity Fund, Europe Equity Fund, Far East Equity Fund, Global Bond Fund) in response to changing market conditions or investors' objectives. The AL-AWSAT Fund is advised by international investment management institutions with proven reputations and track records, each specialized in a respective market.



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Hermitage Museum exhibits in Kuwait

A MAJOR loan exhibition of Islamic art from the Hermitage Museum of Leningrad will be held at the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah from May 1. This was announced by Dar Al Athar's director Sheikhha Hissa Sabah Al Salem.

She said the exhibition offers a rare chance to see 120 Islamic art objects which have never before left the USSR.

"This is a major achievement for the Dar Al Athar to be first non-Soviet institution to put this number of objects in a single exhibition," she said.

As a reciprocal gesture, a collection of Islamic art from the Dar Al Athar will be displayed at the Hermitage in July this year, she said.

The collection of metal work, particularly silverware, is of special interest

due to the relative rarity of early Islamic silverware. With the so-called "silver famine" of the 11th century, bronze rather than silver became the preferred medium for luxury metalwork. To compensate for the low bullion value of this base metal, artists took to inlaying the surface with designs and other metals. This is said to have revolutionised this art form. Such metalwork captured pursuits of the court and was closely linked with miniature painting, lacquer-burners, buckets, candlesticks etc. supplemented inscriptions in a style popular from Egypt to Afghanistan.

Islamic pottery will be well-represented at the exhibition. A series of fine figural glazed wall tiles from Iran of 13th century

Kashan gives an idea of the technical virtuosity of medieval Middle Eastern potters.

Other art objects on display will be rock crystals of the 10th to 11th centuries; ivory objects, door decoration and daggers of the Mughal period.

Art from Daghestan will also be on show. This ethnic collection, recently displayed in London, represents influences from the Graeco-Roman, Celtic, Persian and Arab periods. Artifacts ranging from carpets, costumes, cooking pots, paintings, armour, bracelets and glass brooches recreates the past of Daghestan, said to be a meeting place of many cultures.

The Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah will hold a two-day seminar entitled "Latest Soviet Studies on Islamic Civilisation." Soviet

speakers at the seminar include Prof. Galina Pugachukova from the Oriental Institute of Tashkent; Prof. Anatoly Ivanov from the Hermitage; Prof. Naumkin, head of Arab Studies at the Oriental Institute in Moscow; Prof. Petrovsky, deputy director, and Prof. Khalidov of the Oriental Institute in Leningrad; and Rasul Hamzatov from the Museum of Fine Arts.

The seminar will be attended by experts from the UK, US and Kuwait.

The Hermitage collection and the Daghestan artefacts will be shown to the public from May 1. The exhibition, which runs for a month, will be open daily from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4.30 to 7.30 pm, Sunday thru Friday. The museum is closed on Saturdays.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

1.00 Opening and Holy Quran
1.15 World Today via Satellite (repetition)
1.30 Science programme
2.00 Cartoon serial
2.30 Historical serial
3.05 Health Educational

programme
3.35 Daily Arabic serial Al Maraya
4.20 Daily religious programme
4.45 Daily Arabic serial Rafat Al Hagan
5.30 Daily Religious talk
6.15 Cartoon serial
6.30 After Iftar talk
7.00 Daily children serial Madinat Al Ajayeh

7.45 Public announcements
8.15 Daw'aniyat Shuara Al Nabat
9.00 Variety programme - Juhaina
9.45 Local programme
10.00 News in Arabic
10.45 Daily local serial - Lailiya Baqiya (part 4)
11.45 Variety programme: 3 x 3 (part 19)
12.30 Daily Arabic serial - Layali Al Helmiya (part 3)
1.15 Arabic film - Daleel Al Mau Al Thakia. Starring: Fuad Al Muhandis, Samah Anwar
3.00 News in Brief
3.05 World Today via Satellite
3.20 Closedown

KTV 2

8.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
8.10 Berastuin Bears. A cartoon series for children
8.30 The Beachcombers. "Firemen's Ball". While Laurel, Sara and Tommy are left to enter a float in the parade, Constable

John's Hosers take on the local volunteer fire department in a water-soccer match...
9.00 News in English
9.30 Welcome Ramadan A religious programme on the occasion of Holy Ramadan
9.45 Matlock. Blind Justice. A blind man kills his friend without leaving any traces or testimonial evidence against him.
10.30 Body Matters. A look at the importance of sleep to human body. There are different types of sleep... Light and its effect on sleep.
11.00 The Nut House. The Nut House faces financial crises due to lack of customers... But Nargenton plans a way to attract more clients.
11.30 Best Seller. "The Endless Game". The British intelligence service starts investigations to discover the party interested in killing Carole by a poisonous injection. She works as a spy to the Russians, Americans and the Britons...
1.00 News in Brief
1.45 Magazine D'Actualite

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Rolling Vengeance
Al Salimiyah
The Survivor
Al Hamra
Arabic film
Drive-In
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Dool
Fahadhel Open
Tezab
Fahadhel
Beverly Hills Body Snatchers
Al Jahra
Dhan-Dau-Lat
Granada
Garibon Ka Daata
Sulabikhat
Raiders of Victory
Jleeb
Naaduvazhikal
Ahmadi Drive-In
January Man

PRAYERS

Imsak 3.50 am
Fajr 4.00 am
Zohr 11.48
Asr 3.22 pm
Maghreb 6.15 pm
Isha 7.34 pm

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery

Furniture of Kuwait, pre-oil 1940s furniture, is currently on show at the Sultan Gallery, daily from 10 am to 12 noon and 8 to 10 pm.

From April 16, 1990, "The Mosques of Isfahan" exhibition will be shown at the gallery; it will be open daily from 10 am to 12 noon and 8 to 10 pm.

Bits 'n' Pieces
An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

Kaleidoscope

A colourful spectrum of British and American 20th century music -- including: Britten, Gershwin, Elgar, Copeland and Sandheim. Fraoces Coad - voice; Trevor Platt - piano. On April 18th at the British Embassy. For more information Tel. 5318060 ext 19, 8 am - 1 pm.

SOCIAL

Airline night

The airline staff launches its second annual get-together at Ramada Al Salam Hotel (Le-Mirage Grand ballroom) on Thursday the April 26, 1990. An evening with live music by top bands, fashion parade, etc. limited reservations. Please contact Celestino, Tel. 2420631/2420661 or any staff on 5652073/2429277 (Cynthia).

Summer Affair '90

THE 19th weekend Club will host their traditional "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 24) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen, join in a Jive Competition, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers. Gala buffet, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 431 5425 (Julio), 5741380 or 4890566.

Indian Cuisine Centre
Indian art of fancied lac bangles and designful henna work comes live at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant. Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150.

Cosmos Summer Nite
From Kuwait Cosmos on 10th May 1990, at lawns of Hunting & Equestrian Club. (Pool-side) from 21.00 hrs unto dawn dancing to the beats of: Hurricane Alley & Next of Kin. Highlights of the evening: Cosmos Summer Nite special, table surprise, novelty dance, ballroom dance competition, valuable gifts in store and not forgetting an exotic buffet of your choice. Please collect your invitations from undermentioned: Vincent Pinto, 4887140 or Dama D'Cruz, 5623621.

Cine Club

Sunday, 15/4: "The Last Emperor". Screening to be held at the Kuwait Towers.
Tuesday, 17/4: "Sunshine". Dir. by Stanley Kubrick. Screening to be held at the Kuwait Towers.

Wednesday, 18/4: "Czech Cartoon Muttet and Cley Show". Screening to be held at the Chamber of Commerce auditorium.
Sunday, 22/4: "Indiana Jones and the Last Adventure". Dir. by Steven Spielberg. Screening to be held at the Kuwait Towers.

Tuesday, 24/4: "Once Upon A Time In America". Dir. by Sergio Leone. Screening to be held at the Kuwait Towers.
Note: Screening at 9.30 pm.

Kuwait Little Theatre
Kuwait Little Theatre are presenting a St. George's Day Revue on Thursday 19 April in the Unity Centre, Ahmadi, beginning at 7.30 pm (Please note the change of date to that previously advertised). Acts include Phil Thomas, June Woolston, The Kuwait Folk Group, and the Kuwait Singers. Tickets and tables can be booked by telephoning 3919759.

British Council
The British Council working hours during the Holy month of Ramadan: General office -- Saturday to Wednesday -- 7.30 to 14.00; Library -- Saturday to Wednesday -- 9.00 to 12.30, 16.00 to 19.00; Thursday: 9.00 to 1.20.

Hyderabad

The Committee for Celebrations of 400-year Anniversary of Hyderabad (DECCEN) invites entries in either Urdu, Telugu or English languages to not less than 1000 words on one of the following topics: 1. Quli Qutub Shah -- the Architect of Hyderabad; 2. Contribution of Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan towards modern Hyderabad; 3. Hyderabad City as I saw her (for school students only). The competition is open to all present and former Hyderabadis and their children residing in Kuwait.

A panel of judges will judge the first, second and third prize winning entries, and the prizes and citations will be distributed before the audience at 400-year anniversary celebrations to be held sometime in May 1990. All entries must be neatly written or typed on A4 size paper in double space, and reach the committee on or before April 30, 1990 and addressed to the Convenor Literary Committee, PO Box 23343, Safat, 13094, Kuwait. No entry fee is charged.

Anglican services
ST PAUL'S CHURCH, Ahmadi, Anglican services: Easter Day, 8.30 am, Holy Communion; 11.30 am Lunchtime family service; 12.30 pm Lunchtime communion; 6.30 pm Easter festival, with the Ahmadi Music Group; 7.30 - 8 pm Holy Communion. For further particulars ring 3985924.

Passion Week
THE English language congregation of National Evangelical Church will hold the following worship services: 15th April -- Easter Sunrise Service from 4.30 am to 6.00 am. Easter Communion Service from 7 am to 8.30 am. Easter Sunday worship service from 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm. During which choir will present "Easter Cantata." All are welcome.

Holy week programme at the Holy Family Cathedral Kuwait.

Holy Saturday: 14th April 4.00pm to 6.00 pm confessions; 8.00 pm, Easter Vigil Mass (English).
Easter Sunday: 15th April -- 7.00 am; Holy Mass (English); 9.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 10.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 11.30 am, Holy Mass (French in big hall); 12.00 noon Holy Mass (English); 4.00 pm Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.00 pm, Holy Mass (English); 6.00 pm, Holy Mass (English); 7.00, Holy Mass (Malayalam in big hall)

British Council

COAST-TO COAST. Saturday, 14 and Sunday, 15 April 6.00 pm. A genuinely funny comedy, this is one of the most talked about and foodily remembered British films of 1987, achieving the highest rating ever for a BBC feature. Lenny Henry, arguably Britain's finest comedian, in his first film role as Ritchie Lee, is perfect. There is the added bonus of 18 classic Tamla Motown hits skillfully deployed by director Sandy Johnson. DENNIS, Wednesday, 18 April 5.30 pm; Thursday, 19 April 10.30 am.

The only problem with Dennis is that everything he does always ends in disaster for his long-suffering parents and neighbours. No wonder everyone calls him the Menace! Nine episodes that will have children hollering with laughter!

Kuwait School of Contemporary Dance presents
The Dancer is the dance & dance is life

On Monday, April 30 at 8 pm, Tuesday, May 1 at 8 pm, Wednesday, May 2 at 8 pm, Thursday, May 3 at 3 pm (matinee), Thursday, May 3 at 8 pm. Tickets will be on sale from Saturday, April 14th from 4 pm - 6 pm Saturday - Wednesday in the Box Office in the Mousetrap Theatre or Tel: 5382099, 8 am - 12 noon.

Career and Vocational Guidance
Goon Welfare Society will conduct a seminar on Career and Vocational Guidance on April 20, 1990 at 5 pm, at the Indian Embassy auditorium. All Goon students from standard IX, X, XI are invited to attend along with their parents. Professionals will speak on specialised topics such as engineering, architecture, interior design, computer science, hotel management, banking and medicine. For further information please contact Bras Silveira on tel. 4849006 or Rudolph Feroandes tel. 2438011.

Kuwait Players

The Kuwait Players will be performing "On Pink Paper In Black and White" on Wednesday and Thursday April 18 and 19 respectively. The play comprises of 3 one act plays and starts at 8.00 pm at the Universal American School. For tickets and more information contact 5629875 or 5640981.

Daniella Dhow Trip

Daniella invites all Danes to go on a dhow trip on Friday, May 4. For registration please call Jytte on Tel: 2449610 before April 22.

APPROB Eid dinner venue changed

The venue of the Gala Eid Miln party of the Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen has now been changed to the Sheraton Hotel, Ballroom-A to accommodate more guests, an APPROB press release said.

The Gala Party will be held on Friday 27th April. It will include dinner, music, songs, comedy and a colourful display of Pakistani national costumes. There will be special entertainment and games for children under the age of 10. A lucky draw with attractive prizes and American auction will also be held for the benefit of needy students of Pakistani schools in Kuwait.

For further details and reservations please contact: 5317390, 5386201, 5316273, 2425315, 5631815, 5613934, 2522647.
PAC veterans' committee
Pakistan Arts Circle veterans are reorganising the PAC to revive its tradition of presenting colourful cultural programme for the benefit of the Pakistani community. The PAC veterans held a "Musical Nite" last month which manifests the future aspirations of the PAC Veterans.

The organising committee, named to revamp the PAC and launch a membership campaign, has invited the Pakistani community to join the PAC. The committee includes: Abdul Sattar Qureshi (PAC founder member); Qazi Abbas Rauf (PAC Veteran); Abdul Sattar Ghazali (PAC Veteran); Sheikh Mahmoud Ali Qidwai (PAC Veteran); Chaudhry Ahmad Khan (bank officer); Nasrullah Khan (business executive); and Zahid Butt (businessman).

Saligocars

CALLING all Saligocars... to respond to the call for a social gathering on May 25 at Ramada Al Salam, at 11.30 am. For details contact the following: Justin Fernandes on Tel No. 2406936 (Res), Aloco Carvalho, 2411442 Res. 246121, Cedric D'Mello, Res. 3986469 and Paul D'Cruz, Res. 2444729. Tony Cordeiro off. 2415401. Res. 2412337.

Entertainment City

Kuwait Entertainment City is running a free bus service from Kuwait City to the Entertainment city and back on Thursdays and Fridays throughout the month of Ramadan. The bus starts on both days from opposite the Meridian Hotel at 8.00 pm and returns back from the Entertainment City to the same stop at 12.00 midnight.

May Queen

Goon Welfare Society will crown the May Queen at the Messilah Beach Hotel on Thursday May 10 from 9 pm onwards. Top Ranks in attendance. For further details Tel: 4881387 or 5618971.

Sri Lanka Embassy

The Embassy of Sri Lanka will remain closed on 14th Saturday and 15th Sunday April 1990, on the occasion of the National New Year Festival of Sri Lanka.

Tourist Restaurant

KNOWN for Indian Pakistani tandoori/curry dishes with seven types of bread, Ramadan timings take away service 5 pm onward regular dine 6 pm to 1 pm. For further information contact. Tel. 2411702.

HOTELS

Kuwait Continental Hotel

Ramadan activities: Gardenia: Serves an Iftar Buffet Daily with Continental, Arabic and Indian delicacies. A la carte dinner and snacks also available.

Darbar: Serving exquisite Indian Food from 7.30 pm until midnight.

Kuwait International Hotel

LA PALMA: Opens at 6.00 pm for an elaborate Iftar buffet with traditional specialties of your choice. Desserts prepared by our Arabic pastry chef. One guest complimentary for each group of 6 persons. Ext 8166.

LA PATISSERIE: Opens for take-away treats at 5.00 pm and stays open for Suhour until 2.00 am. Live entertainment in the lobby sets the mood for the evening. Ext 8014.

OUTSIDE CATERING: Whether it is for you and your family or for friends and associates our outside catering facilities can cater to all your needs. Offers traditional Iftar buffet suggestions. Banquets will be pleased to assist: 2530000 ext 8008-8000.

Holiday Inn

Ramadan Activities: COFFEE SHOP: Lavish buffet of traditional Arabic cuisine for only KD6.000 including beverages. First two kids free, per family, the rest half price. SUHOUR: Eat as much as you can for KD2.000. LOBBY CAFE: All kinds of freshly squeezed juices plus mouth-watering pastries. BABYLON GARDENS: Order for 2 and pay for 1. From 7 to 9 pm nightly. Enjoy a variety of Arabic and Continental sweets and associated fresh fruit juices.

LA PERCOLA: The beach side open air restaurant offers light meals and snacks from sunset to midnight.

Ramadan at Messilah Beach Hotel

AL MUBARAKIAH: Daily Ramadan Iftar Buffet, with a selection of fresh dishes, Kuwaiti and Middle Eastern specialties.

Ghazga & Sohaur: Enjoy the daily fresh desserts and juices with the delightful suhour buffet accompanied by soft Middle Eastern background music on the oud.

Sheraton Hotel

HUNT ROOM: Opens for Iftar with a buffet of exquisite delicacies. RICARDO: Will be opened for dinner with live entertainment by the new duo Franco & Regina. COFFEE SHOP: Will serve an Iftar buffet and regular dinner with special menu items such as grilled items, mazzza, etc. Enjoy Suhour from 12 pm to 3 am. LOBBY: Lady pianist Malgorzata Wcisla plays in the lobby diwanis after Iftar until the end of Ramadan.

Kuwait Plaza

SPECIAL Ramadan Activities: Al Dallah coffee shop features authentic Iftar with sumptuous dishes, mezza, sweet, Ramadan drinks and a special buffet.

NOURA TERRACE: Surrounded by man-made waterfalls and green sceneries offers all kinds of light meals, juices, Ramadan drinks, bubbly-bubble and rick track in an open air atmosphere. open from 8 pm until 2 am.

LOLOWAH CORNER: Invites you to spend an evening out with your family. Enjoy all kinds of Kuwaiti and Arabic sweets with variety of delicious beverage and live entertainment. Open from sunset until 2 am.

SPORTS

Messilah Beach Hotel Club

WINDSURFING: 6 levels of windsurfing lessons for beginners and intermediates. Each level lasts about 3 hours. The instructor is the present British windsurfing champion. Private lessons on request.

WATER SKIING: 2 courses, one for beginners and one for progressing to monoskiing. SPEED BOAT INSTRUCTION: 140HP Larson. Course covers basic boat and engine maintenance, launching, piloting, mooring, etc.

SAILING: 6 levels for beginners & intermediates. Approximately 3 hours duration each level. Each participant will be given a syllabus of training for their particular course. For further information please telephone 5624111 ext. 739.



Cypriot delegation at the Sheraton

A Cypriot delegation comprising management of travel agents and tourist officers recently visited Kuwait in co-operation with Kuwait Airways Corporation and Kuwait Sheraton Hotel. The delegation who was welcomed by members of the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel team and Kuwait Airways Corporation expressed their admiration for the development of Kuwait and the efficiency of both the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel and Kuwait Airways Corporation on the facilities and services offered to clients visiting Kuwait.



MPA reception at SAS

A reception party for the Medical Professional Association, was held at the SAS Kuwait hotel recently. Pictured from right: Minister of Information -- Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah, (Middle) Minister of Planning & Acting Minister of Health -- Dr Abdullahman Al Awadi, (Left) Undersecretary of Ministry of Information -- Hamed Yousef Al Roum.

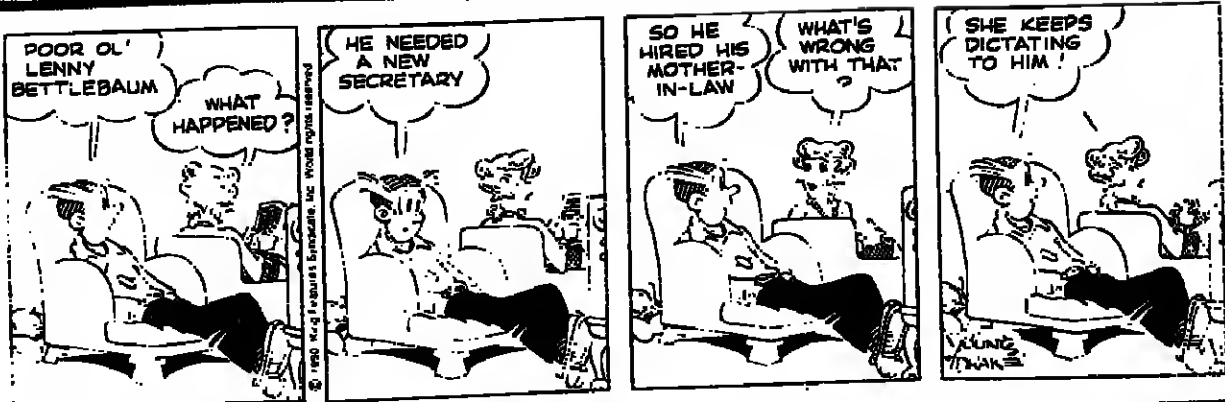


Kapilku awards Plaque of Appreciation

Manny Inserto (left) the outgoing Kapilku President awards the Plaque of Appreciation to Don Jayantha Kariyaganga the Director and General Manager of Trico International (FWD) Ltd, Kuwait for his untiring support to the organisation, the Association of Filipinos in Kuwait/Kapilku Pansipon sa Kuwait (Kapilku).

Trico International reiterates its commitment to Kapilku and has confirmed sponsoring the awarding of Plaque of Appreciation, merits and excellence to all members, supporters and officers who extended their selfless efforts to the grand success of all Kapilku's projects for the year 1989. The awarding of plaques will coincide with the celebration of the Philippine Independence on June 12.

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



AGATHA CRUMM — By Bill Hoest



BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP



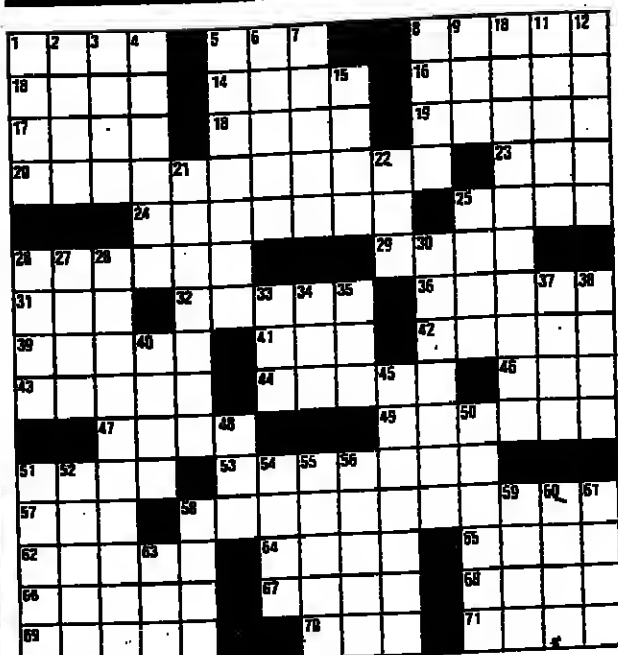
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 International treaty
 - 5 What you do later
 - 8 Prepared potatoes
 - 13 Hawaiian royal chief
 - 14 Capital of Yemen
 - 16 Hersey's bell town
 - 17 Rip, the actor
 - 18 Case — Toronto tourist attraction
 - 19 Dante's division
 - 20 Fruit for Finn?
 - 23 "Perfect" number
 - 24 Dormant condition
 - 25 Pierre's railway station
 - 26 Most fresh
 - 29 Biographer Ludwig
 - 31 Perished
 - 32 Family car
 - 35 Greatest day
 - 39 Path lead-in
 - 41 "Much — about Nothing"
 - 42 Sticky
 - 43 Cubic meter
 - 44 River to the Seine
 - 46 Before cut or slice
 - 47 Soprano Ponselle
 - 49 Honestly!
 - 51 Edges
 - 53 Newspaper
 - 57 Edinburgh uncle
 - 58 Persephone's fruit
 - 62 Logrolling contest
 - 64 Shelter
 - 65 Attached
- DOWN**
- 2 Way of life
 - 3 Baseball family
 - 4 Leaflet, for short
 - 5 Talk idly
 - 6 Paint holder
 - 7 Southwestern brick
 - 8 Mocha's land
 - 9 Pungent
 - 10 Actress Lupino
 - 11 Lover's dilemma
 - 12 Engeage
 - 13 Surname in a Blackmore title
 - 15 Fed
 - 21 Dogie eesses?
 - 22 Bakery purchase
 - 25 Maiden
 - 26 Modernists
 - 27 Once, once
 - 28 Fruit for a picnic
 - 30 Fuchsia red
 - 33 Pony's mother
 - 34 Nabokov heroine
 - 35 And not
 - 37 Withered
 - 38 Viewed
 - 40 Piccadilly Circus figure
 - 45 Food preservative
 - 48 Toronto art gallery; abbr.
 - 50 floss
 - 51 Oriental rug from
 - 52 Chew the scenery
 - 54 Latin I word
 - 55 Horse's kin
 - 56 White-plumed heron
 - 58 Wagon tongue
 - 59 Vivacious
 - 60 Eye drop
 - 61 Film
 - 63 Overhead lines

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

AHAB CEARA ETON
SOLD ARTEL NAPE
TWO ACRES OF INACRE
TIE ONCE ROCKY
MET SECT
JOCKEY CUSK GAD
AVOID CHIT ORLE
SIXITY FEET OF MEAT
ONE RARE AETNA
NEY ZEIT ERNEST
SINE SIO
PIEKIE SURIR RATE
SEVENTEEN OF BUNS
ERIE TNAIR EGBON
TILT COPE S TYNE

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
NICE AND EASY DOES IT

Both vulnerable South deals.

NORTH
♠ 8 4
♥ J 10 7
♦ J 10 7 2
♣ A 10 9 5

WEST
♠ Q 9 7 6 3
♥ K 9 3
♦ K 6
♣ 7 4 3

EAST
♠ J 10 5
♥ Q 6 5 2
♦ 5 4 3
♣ K 8 6

SOUTH
♠ A K 2
♥ A 8 4
♦ A Q 9 8
♣ Q J 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♠
Unlike humankind, all finesses are not created equal. Some are safe to take; others are not, as declarer learned to his cost.

North-South's range for a two-no-trump opening was 21-22, so South deemed the hand a whisker short for that action. But when North was able to scrape up a raise South wasted no time in bidding game—and going down.

Declarer won the spade lead and, without giving the hand much thought, ran the queen of clubs. East took the king and reverted to a spade. Declarer held up one round, won the spade continuation, cashed out the clubs and then tried the diamond finesse. West scored the king and two more spade tricks for down one.

With more prudent planning declarer should make the contract even with both finesses offside. The key to the hand is keeping West off lead once the spades are established. Since declarer can afford to lose a trick to East at the key moment declarer should start by holding up on the first spade then winning the continuation.

Next, declarer should play the ace and another diamond from hand. West wins and can force out the spade stopper, but declarer is in control. South takes the club finesse and doesn't much care whether he wins or loses. If it loses, either East won't have a spade to return or, if he does, the suit will break 4-4. In all, declarer wins three tricks in each minor, two spades and the ace of hearts.



YOUR STARS



Aries
March 21 - April 19
You will have a lot to do and should not try to do it all at once. Take just a little more exercise, nothing too strenuous. Avoid making promises that would be hard to keep. Be more patient.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20
Keep your eyes and ears wide open and take note of other people's opinions. You have less time than you think but you must not allow yourself to become flustered. Make sure you do not exceed any limits whether of speed or of safety. Be tolerant.



Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 23
You should avoid spending more than you can readily afford. And do not rely on luck to get you out of trouble, even though you may well be lucky. A personal project will make good progress but only if you persevere. Be tidy.



Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19
Not everything is as it seems to be and you should look somewhat more beneath the surface. Your lucky numbers are 18 and 27. Your skill and experience will stand you in good stead in a personal matter. Do not take without giving in return. Be forgiving.



Taurus
April 21 - May 20
You should beware of committing yourself to a heavy financial outlay. Do not get annoyed with yourself if you have done something wrong, just try to avoid it happening again. Do not say anything you do not really mean. Be respectful.



Leo
July 21 - Aug. 21
Your health should not be neglected. Do your best to avoid becoming obsessive. Take a little more care about what you say and try not to give offence. You are more liable to stumble so watch carefully where you are going. Be generous.



Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 22
You will be able to make better progress than you have done of late. However, nothing will happen if it is not your own doing. Make sure you do not eat or drink more than you should, but do not starve yourself either. Be less extravagant.



Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 19
Make sure you do not get into other people's way. You will have an opportunity to make amends and you should not waste it. Have a good laugh at yourself and do not always look on the dark side. Be sensible.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20
You are more liable to create confusion and should do all you can to avoid so doing. You should not expect everyone to do all that you would wish them to do. Do not take too much for granted. Be consistent.



Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
You should not try to use force in a situation where charm has not prevailed. Do not become involved in what does not really concern you. You should not think you are so much better than others — you are not. Be adaptable.



Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 20
Do not wait for others to make the first move, but do not be precipitate either. Try to spend a little while on your own. You are liable to get things out of proportion and should do all you can to rectify matters. Be sincere.



Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You should use just a little more common sense. Do not be too good towards others, as being less envious. There is a danger of getting into bad habits, try to avoid it. Be fair.



"Now don't mention coming in here when we get home."



"Can I borrow that magazine you were reading in bed last night?"

Entertainment briefs

'Almost an Angel'

Paul Hogan has wrapped up his latest movie for Paramount, *Almost an Angel*, which co-stars Elias Koteas and Linda Kozlowski, the blonde beauty who appeared with the Australian star in both *Crocodile Dundee* films. *Almost an Angel* was produced and directed by John Cornell from a screenplay written by Hogan, who also acted as executive producer of the romantic comedy, which is due for release during the Christmas holidays. This time around Hogan plays an oddball burglar who recovers from an accident believing he has been sent back to earth as an angel.

Voicestra

Singer Boddy McFerry will make the east coast debut with his band, the Voicestra, May 17, 18 and 19 at the Boston Opera House.

After the pressure of working solo for several years, the Grammy-winning pop and jazz improviser said he realized he wanted to work with other singers in a spontaneous group setting.

Searchers

Emily Lloyd, James Earl Jones and Faye Dunaway will star in *Searchers*, a contemporary feature film set in the southern Bayou country of Cajun Louisiana. Scheduled to begin production April 24 on locations in Louisiana, *Searchers* is the dramatic story of two women who face their loss of innocence over the course of a single night in the small town of Bayou La Teche.

The picture will be co-produced by London-based Goldcrest Films and Richard Becker of Producers Representative Organization.

Martian invaders

Buena Vista Pictures distribution has acquired the rights to the independently produced movie *Martians* and refitted it *Spaced Invaders*.

Spaced Invaders, directed by Patrick Read Johnson and produced by Luigi Cinigolani, will be released April 27 under the Touchstone Pictures banner, a Disney subsidiary.

The comedy follows the misadventures of a group of mixed-up Martians who mistake a 50th anniversary of the rebroadcast of Orson Welles' *The War of the Worlds* on a local radio station as an invasion summons. The film stars Douglas Barr and Royal Dano.

All-star special

Rosemary Clooney's *Fifth Annual Singers' Salute to the Songwriter* anniversary concert will feature some of the country's biggest stars.

The April 24 concert, to be held at the Los Angeles Music Centre, is to benefit the Betty Clooney Foundation for persons with brain injury.

Joining Rosemary on stage will be Liza Minnelli, Linda Ronstadt, Bea Arthur, Bob Hope, Tony Bennett, Debby Boone, Ginger Rogers, The Hi-Lo's and others. Among the honourees will be composers Marvin Hamlisch, John Kander and Fred Ebb and Jimmy Webb.

Cast replacement

Lolita Davidovich has replaced Elizabeth Perkins, who withdrew for health reasons, in a starring role in *The Object of Beauty* for avenue pictures.

Co-starring with Davidovich are John Malkovich and

Andie McDowell, along with Peter Riegert and Rudi Daves, for director Michael Lindsay-Hogg. Davidovich earned her movie spurs playing the title role in *Blaze* opposite Paul Newman.

Jazz masterpieces

Columbia Records' important jazz masterpieces series is out with its 11th set or reissues in four years. The latest batch of seven releases includes more works by Miles Davis, Billie Holiday and Roy Eldridge, and opens the Columbia vaults on Billie Holiday for the first time.

So far, more than three million units of the first 84 releases have been shipped to stores. The next wave, due in July, will feature Chet Baker with Strings, More brother-beckie, saxophonist Charlie Rouse, and a new collection of Scott Joplin.

Caribbean jazz

The eighth annual floating jazz festival aboard the SS Norway this October will be filled with good vibes. Vibraphonists Lionel Hampton, Gary Burton and Terry Gibbs will be aboard the Oct 20 sailing with their own bands, and are certain to perform together at least once during the cruise.

Other attractions include the Toshiko Akiyoshi jazz orchestra, trumpeter Jon Faddes, the Jimmy and Jeannie Cheatham Sweet Baby Blues Band, Al Grey, and Pianists Jay McShann, John Eaton, Derek Smith, Ralph Sutton and Kenny Barron.

The Oct 27 sailing will feature the Illinois Jacquet Big Band, Dorothy Donegan, Tuc and Patti Lou Donaldson, Stanley Turrentine, Flip Phillips, Buddy Tate, Clark Terry, Rebecca Parris, and pianists Ray Bryant, John Bunch, Eddie Higgins, and Dave McKenna.

Gloss series

Sharon Gless, who played a cop in the long-running *Cagney and Lacey* series, will star in a new one-hour dramatic series for CBS beginning next fall.

Temporarily titled *Renegade*, Gless will play a newly-divorced woman in her 40s who re-enters the job market. The new show will be produced by Barney Rosenzweig, who produced *Cagney and Lacey*. Says Rosenzweig, "We look forward to bringing the same level of quality to CBS that was our hallmark for six seasons on *Cagney and Lacey*."

Cusack stars

John Cusack and James Spader star in the movie *True Colors*, currently filming on locations in and around Richmond and Charlottesville, Va., for Paramount Pictures.

The story deals with friendship, betrayal and revenge under the direction of Herbert Ross from a screenplay by Kevin Wade.

True Colors spans a decade in the lives of two young men who first meet in law school and discover their opposing loyalties and beliefs and their love for the same woman, played by Imogen Stubbs.

Suspense

Under its new production entity, Hollywood Pictures, the Walt Disney Studios has launched a new suspense drama titled, *Run*, starring Patrick Dempsey and Tracy Pollan.

Geoff Burrows will direct the film based on a screenplay by Dennis Shryack and Michael Blodgett.

On the trail of Stan Laurel

....



Pipers in Argyle St, Glasgow



Blackpool Tower



Lake Windermere

Stan's 100th birthday anniversary on June 16



Bill Cubin's Laurel and Hardy Museum

By: Gordon Irving

WHO would dream of linking the late, great, comedian Stan Laurel, thin half of Laurel and Hardy, with touring some of Britain's most scenic and interesting places? This is the year to do it, because June 16 is the 100th anniversary of Stan's birth.

The Laurel and Hardy cult is as strong as ever, and the pair's many films continue to raise laughter around the world. Most of the audiences may associate them only with Hollywood, but Stan's roots are in the old market town of Ulverston, on the southern fringes of England's Lake District.

The son of a theatrical promoter and manager, he was born Stanley Jefferson at No 7 Argyle Street, and as a lad no doubt enjoyed the local delicacy Cumberland sausage (it can be bought by the yard in Ulverston butchers, and should be eaten with haked apple and mashed potato).

Ulverston, named after a Saxon landowner called Ulph, is a pleasant town with cobbled streets — and a Laurel and Hardy museum in Upper Brook Street. This is the creation of Bill Cubin, an ardent fan and ex-mayor, who has built up his collection over many years, as well as a mass of memorabilia you can see Laurel and Hardy films — Cubin has nearly all of the 105 they made.

Another famous son of Ulverston was Sir John Barrow, born 126 years before Stan. He left school at 13, and went on to become Secretary of the Admiralty and founder of the Royal Geographical Society. His monument is a replica light-house built on top of Hoad Hill on the edge of town. On Easter Monday (April 16), there will be egg-rolling down the hill, with aficionados of Stan Laurel competing for prizes for the best-decorated hard-boiled egg!

North of Ulverston rises the glorious Lake District national park — the parallel lakes of Windermere and Conistone Water are only eight miles away. Despite its wildness, the area is well-stocked with hotels, guest-houses, inns and restaurants, from the Solway shore in the north to the Furness peninsula in the south. Hill-climbers, walkers, nature-lovers and painters will find a wide range of leisure activities; others may just like a

leisurely tour, admiring the scenic beauty.

Across Morecambe Bay to the south of Ulverston is the big and lively resort of Blackpool, where Stan's fans will gather from May 4 to 6 for a Sons of the Desert Centenary Convention. ("Sons of the Desert" is the world-wide title of Laurel and Hardy appreciation societies).

With its seven-mile promenade — which still has old-style tramcars — a vast Pleasure Park, and the lofty landmark of the Blackpool Tower, this is a town offering very different attractions from the tranquil Lake District.

There will also be Stan Laurel celebrations in Glasgow, where Stan's family moved while he was a boy. He attended schools in the Queen's Park district, and in the nearby town of Rutherglen. Scotland's largest city is currently very much in the spotlight as the 1990 European City of Culture. By a coincidence, it also has an Argyle Street which played a role in the Stan Laurel story. You can still see the remains of the Paoopicon, a 19th century music-hall, above a shop there. The young Laurel "borrowed" his father's frock-coat and top hat to make his theatrical debut on its stage as a comedian around 1905, before leaving for North America on a cattle-boat with the Fred Karno company.

Stan's father, Arthur Jefferson, was manager of the Scotia (later the Metropole Theatre) music-hall in Glasgow; and his mother, Madge, is buried in Cathcart cemetery on the southern side. While retaining many fine old buildings, Glasgow has changed greatly since Stan's schooldays, but there is little doubt he would have enjoyed many of the 2,000 wide-ranging events taking place to mark its reign as European Cultural Capital.

Stan made numerous trips back to Britain, sometimes accompanied by Oliver Hardy, and on one of them they stayed at the Midland village of Bottesford, between Nottingham and Grantham. It has a fine old church with a lofty spire, but for Laurel and Hardy enthusiasts the main interest is that the pair stayed at the Bull Inn. Stan's sister, Olga Healy, was landlady of the pub at the time, and there are still villagers who remember Stan and Olly playing darts with the regulars at Christmas, 1933.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

NETWORK OF BLOOD VESSELS ALLOWS LOSS OF HEAT FROM HEAD

QUESTION: You wrote in a recent column that "you may lose up to one-half of your body heat through the top of your head." I know that statement is true, for I have seen it many times in health columns, but I have never seen an explanation. People wonder how such a small part of your body can lose so much heat. Please do millions of people a favour and explain how. Or don't you know?

ANSWER: That's the way! Issue a challenge, and you know I'll put your letter to the column. Especially when I do know the answer.

First we must understand that the heat of our body, which is produced by the metabolism, or burning of the nutrients we eat like carbohydrates, proteins and fats, is distributed throughout the body by the circulatory system. The heat contained in the blood, warms all the tissues and keeps the body temperature at a normal 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit.

One look at a diagram of the arteries and capillaries of the scalp would provide you with the answers. The skin of the scalp, which is thicker than in any other part of the body, is loaded with a rich network of blood vessels. Most people who have suffered a cut or laceration to the scalp know just how much blood seemed to flow and how difficult it was to stop the bleeding.

This extensive blood circulation, close to the surface of the skin, can result in the loss of a great deal of heat in cold weather, particularly when the wind-chill factor dips to low numbers. A hat or cap acts like a blanket, retaining the body heat and preventing its loss to the cold environment. The same anatomy can help you cool off during the heat

of summer, when dousing your head with cool water leads to the process of evaporation, and helps your body disperse unwanted and unneeded heat. Your perspiration over the rest of your skin acts in the same way, but the concentration of blood vessels on the top of your head makes your scalp an efficient heat pump.

YOU ASKED FOR IT: After the mention of the development of "pain clinics" in many areas of the country, you filled my bulging mail bag with requests for the address of the facility closest to you. With this flood of interest and demand, it was clear to me that I had discovered a need that must be taken care of. The help you require is available from the American Pain Society, which together with the American Academy of Pain Medicine, recently published a "Director of Pain Management Facilities." The American Pain Society is an organization dedicated to the advancement of knowledge about pain, and seeks to foster the development of improved methods of pain control, to increase the public awareness of pain research and promote education about pain.

While the directory (a great reference book that can be yours for \$30 included with your request) may be more than you need, you can obtain the information about local pain centers in your area without charge by addressing your request to Dr Robert G. Addison, President, American Pain Society, 5700 Old Orchard Road, First Floor, Skokie, Ill. 60077-1024. Be sure to enclose a stamped, self-addressed, business-size envelope. You will receive copies of the pages from the directory that list the facilities nearest to you.

Oh baby! You're not how I expected you to be

BECOMING a parent is the proudest moment in anyone's life... or is it?

For many, that feeling of pride can quickly change to bewilderment when they realise that Junior resembles not themselves but a mis-shaped little creature who has just done 15 rounds with the world champion.

And however hard the parents search for any sign of family recognition, they finally concede that their newborn looks a lot like the other babies in the nursery rather than Mum and Dad.

That's when you know you're not prepared for parenthood and so many puzzling — even frightening — things are going to happen that you were never warned about.

Take the baby's appearance. All newborn babies are oddly shaped. This is caused by the trauma of being squeezed through the birth canal during birth contractions. So it's hardly surprising that the new arrival is no beauty.

The infant's facial features may be distorted. Again, this has nothing to do with Mum or Dad's genes but is caused by pressure inside the womb. The cherubic looks will come in a day or two.

Take heart, too, that the cute little button in the middle of baby's face will change into the family nose in due course. All babies have a pug nose and the bridge doesn't grow until later. So babies are born with a flat space above the nose that often makes them appear to be cross-eyed.

Most are also born with blue or blue-grey eyes. Permanent eye colour takes months to develop. And although babies may cry a lot, they don't produce tears. There is moisture to lubricate and clean the eyes but proper tears don't appear until three and 12 weeks.

If the little darling smiles just for Dad, Mum mustn't take it too personally. To Junior, the world is a blurry one which consists of light, both dark and bright, and movement. He can't actually focus on any object until later and prefers looking at curved lines rather than straight ones.

Contrary to the old wives' tale, babies are not colour blind. Recent research in America has shown that newborns dis-

Parents aren't always prepared for the first few months of a child's life. His appearance, needs, responses — or the lack of them — can be a worry for Mum and Dad. Faith Mall meets an expert whose new book will dispel a few myths.



Bath-time contact is important

gust colours and prefer strong primary colours, especially red and blue.

But if he can't see you, he can hear you. In the first 24 hours of life, babies can discriminate between sounds of different tones and duration and can locate objects by sound.

And according to a recent study, babies respond to female voices more than to any other sound. So get talking, Mum.

Babies can also smell their mothers and this bonds the parent and child together. By the age of one week, a newborn can distinguish his mother's odour and tell the difference between her breast milk and that of other mothers.

The little one also has a developed sense of taste. A newborn baby likes sweet-tasting liquids and turns away from sour or bitter substances. Although he can taste,

the newborn probably can't detect a subtle change in flavour, only an extreme change.

But he does welcome touching. Every newborn needs to be touched, stroked and cuddled. The most sensitive area at birth is a baby's lips and face. After a few weeks, the child's sensitivity moves to the legs, arms and body. That's why your cherub will curl when tickled and kissed on the chest before bath-time.

And the hair that covers most of his body will usually fall off within a couple of weeks. This grows in the womb and is often thicker on premature babies. Parents also expect the latest arrival to have hair just like Mummy and Daddy, or at least the same shade.

But parents hoping for a little blond are often surprised to find baby is born with a head of thick, black hair. By about six months, it is replaced by permanent hair which may be totally different in colour and texture from his first hair.

You'll also notice that when he's born, your baby's head appears to be very large. It makes up about one-fourth of total body length. The reason this seems strange to us is because our own heads are only one-eighth of our total body length, and we expect a miniature version of us.

Bumps on a head aren't injuries. Babies have natural bumps from the time the skull is first formed, and these don't indicate any mental defect.

Most parents are also puzzled by the fact that their baby breathes much faster than them. On average, Junior will breathe 30 to 50 times per minute, compared to your 15 to 20 times per minute.

American baby expert Nancy Birace, co-author of a new book on babies, says this is caused by two things. She told me: "A baby's body burns oxygen more quickly, so more breaths need to be taken. Also when a baby is born, it's lungs are collapsed and it takes a while for a new-

born's respiratory system to work efficiently.

Parents should also know that infants only breathe through their noses and are unable to take a breath through their mouths for several weeks. Some researchers believe the reason is that their tongues are too far back in their mouths to allow mouth breathing.

In any case, newborns often sneeze and snort, especially in their sleep, to clear nasal passages. Parents tend to mistake this sneezing for a cold.

Babies also have a high heart rate. The heart of a newborn beats between 130 and 160 times a minute, twice the rate of a normal adult. And a newborn burns fuel faster than his parents — about 25 calories a day per pound of body weight. (Who needs aerobics?)

Another worry during a child's first few months of life is weight gain. Most parents become anxious when their infant doesn't put weight on straight away. Some even lose weight until body functions stabilise.

After that it's uphill all the way and in his first year a baby triples in weight, increases in length by 50 per cent, doubles the size of his brain and creates every nerve cell he will ever have.

And a baby's size at birth is not an indication of eventual adult size, so you could have a Frank Bruno on your hands!

The one thing most parents are prepared for is wind. But they are not told beforehand that this is likely to last for the first three months of the youngster's life. So be warned!

The only reprieve from this ailment is sleep. It's true to say that most babies spend most of their time sleeping. Newborn babies sleep between 15 and 20 hours a day. Each session can last between 20 minutes and five hours.

But this state of affairs doesn't last for too long because period of waking lengthens with every month of life. And although he's only awake for two hours in the beginning, by the time he's six months he'll be up for longer.

● *The Parents' Book of Facts* by Tom and Nancy Birace, published by Facts on File at 10.95.



Cherubic looks take a day or two to come

FILIPINO DIGEST

SHIPPERS

Probe team to Cebu: In Cebu City, an eight-man team from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) general headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo arrived in Cebu to look into the aborted Matcan Air Base mutiny.

Led by Lieut Col Freddie Lozada of the Philippine Air Force (PAF), the group paid a courtesy call on Brig. Gen. Renato Palma, Visayas military commander, upon arrival.

Lozada told newsmen the group was sent to Cebu by AFP chief of staff Gen. Renato de Villa to investigate the coup attempt by rebel soldiers led by Brig. Gen. Jose Comendador, commander of the PAF second air division.

Other agencies, including the Constabulary Criminal Investigation Service (CIS) and the second air division Judge Advocate's Office, had also been conducting separate probes into the mutiny.

A senior PC official said the military may summon some members of the Cebu media to testify in the inquiry.

The nine-day Mactan Air Base mutiny, the last pocket of resistance in a failed coup, ended without any gunfire and with rebels offering to return to their units.

Woman stabs Marine: A woman allegedly stabbed a Marine who had a quarrel with her woman friend in a restaurant in Quezon City.

Marites Casupang, 25, of 112 A. Mabini St., Barangay de la Paz, Bina, Laguna, surrendered to Quezon City police sub-station 4 commander Capt. Benjamin Fortuna after stabbing Pat Randy Aquino, 20, of Marine hospital command on B. Serrano St., Quezon City.

Police said the stabbing happened inside a restaurant where Aquino and a companion were eating and drinking liquor.

Police said, Aquino and the restaurant cashier argued when the cashier refused to give Aquino a discount for their child.

Witnesses said Aquino mashed the breast of the cashier, angering Casupang who grabbed a kitchen knife and stabbed Aquino in the stomach.

Aquino was rushed to the V. Luna Medical Centre by his companion, police said.

2 firms exempted from pay increase: Only two out of 229 business establishments were exempted from implementing the wage increase provisions of the Wage Rationalisation Act, an official of the Department of Labour and Employment (Dole) said.

The name of the firms were not disclosed, however, by National Wages Council (NWC) director Carmelita Pineda. Thirty-one other companies applied for exemption but their applications were dismissed for lack of required documents, and 104 others were found ineligible, said Pineda.

She said there are still 73 applications being processed and two have been disapproved based on department order No. 18 allowing only companies employing not more than 10 workers who can apply for exemption.

Frenchman nabbed: A Frenchman who did not renew his tourist visa was arrested by immigration agents in Makati.

Didier Houdeville, 30, operation manager of the Euro-Asia and Asiatic Inc, had no passport when he was arrested at the Expocraft Bldg in Makati.

When presented to reporters by immigration associate commissioner George Sarmiento, Houdeville claimed his passport had been stolen.

Houdeville arrived in the Philippines in July 1989 and applied only once for an extension of his stay in the country.

5 CID men dismissed: Five Commission on Immigration and Deportation (CID) employees were dismissed and eight others were suspended, CID associate commissioner George Sarmiento said.

The CID Board of Disciplines (BOD) also reprimanded two employees and transferred another two to other positions. Twenty-six other employees were cleared of administrative charges filed against them.

BOD chairman Ronaldo Ledesma said that those suspended were found guilty of insubordination or neglect of duty and those dismissed were found guilty of dishonesty, falsification of official documents or other violations.

Malabon pusher falls: A suspected drug pusher was arrested in Malabon for possessing P30,000 worth of marijuana.

Crisostomo San Jose, 34, of Int. 117 Manapat St., Barangay T. nong, Malabon, had three plastic bags of marijuana in a milk can when he was arrested, police claimed.

7 'Tirtir' men caught: Seven suspected members of a "Tirtir" gang were arrested by Mandoaluyong police.

Arrested at the corner of Edsa and Shaw Blvd were Emiliano Ibanez, 40, of Matanza, Pasig; Ramil Ayo, 18, Pinagbuhatan, Pasig; Joey Pabores, 19, also of Pinagbuhatan; Roncio Samson, 23, of 68 Agudo St., Baranika, Marikina; Wilson Cabon, 21, of SS Regiment, Bonifacio, Makati; Caruel Sagayon, 22, also of Bonifacio, Makati and Leopoldo Nalos, 39, of 325 Agudo St., San Miguel, Manila.

The suspects were said to be responsible for a series of robbery in Mandaluyong.

"Nahuli na rin naming ang mga salot. Kapag pumalag ka ryan sa mga iyan, papatayin ka pa," one of the arresting policeman said.

Cop, ESC manager relieved: A police station commander and a district manager of the Environmental Sanitation Centre were relieved of their posts over illegal vendors and uncollected garbage.

Manila Mayor Gemiliano Lopez Jr sacked Western Police Station 3 chief Capt. Levi Viesca and ESC District III manager Gilbert Advincula.

Lopez had warned Advincula to remove garbage piles near the corner of Cavite St in Blumentritt but the mayor found the garbage still there.

"I have served Viesca no less than seven warnings, the latest in the presence of Maj. Gen. Ramon Montano and Brig. Gen. Alexander Aguirre (to clear his area of illegal vendors)," Lopez said.

Jewel woman loses P300,000: A woman who buys and sell jewels lost some P300,000 in cash and valuables to two snatchers in Pasig.

Priscila Rivera, 53, of R. Castillo St., Luluhan Sur, Pasig, almost fainted from shock as she recounted her tale to police.

She said she was about to board a jeep on her way home when two men crept from behind and grabbed her shoulder bag containing cash, gold earrings, rings and bracelets.

Bandits take five hostages: Zamboanga City: Bandits robbed and burned a bus, and took five passengers as hostages in their escape in a remote village in the southern Philippines, the military reported.

The military's Southern Command said about 20 armed men, in ambush positions along a highway, shot the tyres of a bus as it travelled through the village of Licomo at about 5:30 a.m.

The report said the driver was forced to stop the bus and the bandits ordered more than 50 passengers to get off. The bandits ransacked the vehicle and robbed the passengers of an undetermined amount of cash, jewelry and other valuables.

The bandits set the bus on fire and then took 25 passengers at gunpoint to a nearby forest, it added.

The armed men, carrying M-14 and M-16 Armalite rifles, later released 20 of their captives in the hinterland of nearby Tictapul village.

LBP grants P20m loans to small farmers: Damague City: A P20 million credit package will be made available to small farmers in Negros Oriental by the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) this year to meet the funding needs of their farming activities.

Ernesto Maximo, LBP operations field manager, said the LBP credit assistance has been intensified in the rural areas due to the increasing demand for financial assistance of small farmers.

Sixty per cent of the credit package will be extended to individual farmers and 40 per cent to farmers' associations or co-operatives, Maximo said.

Under the lending scheme, the farmers will repay their loans at the annual interest rate of 15 per cent, Maximo added.

Govt employee killed in Kalina-Apayao
TABUK, Kalina-Apayao (PNA) — An employee of the provincial engineer office here was shot dead by two unidentified armed men Thursday night, police reported yesterday.

Fernin Ballesteros, 46, died from three gunshot wounds in the chest.

Pining for papa

Tonton Gutierrez and Maricel Laxa

IT MIGHT have been what steered them to similar paths. Unlike Tonton Gutierrez and Maricel Laxa, other kids had mummies and daddies. Tonton recalls: "I'd wonder why my classmates had both their parents active in our school's PTA, while I only had my mom. Those were years filled with questions." Adds Maricel: "It's still different when you have a solid family to guide you throughout your (growing-up) years. I remember I pretended that my dad's other children were cousins when we first met. I didn't want to hurt them because they were younger. But it was hard on my part because I knew the truth," adds Maricel, whose mother actress Imelda Ilanan explained their a typical family set-up early enough to her.

Maricel and Tonton's childhood privations became grist for the rumour mills, playing right into the talons of showbiz predators.

"The fact that my dad has another family and I have a stepmother in showbusiness complicated matters. The write-ups hit me straight inside because I didn't really get the chance to know my sister nor my dad in the first place. It was unfair because they were comparing my sister and me — *pinapalabas na nag-away kami*," whines Maricel as she recalls her first cruel taste of showbiz.

Tonton, for his part, burts over the latest scandal buried at his mom, Liza Lorena: the shabu controversy. "It was a frame-up," asserts the son, carefully remaining tight-lipped over the particulars of the case. To make matters worse, his name is included in a watchlist of alleged drug-users released recently. "They have no proof," says he.

All these for Maricel's 19 years and Tonton's 21. Time perhaps to heal, to build. Maricel looks forward to closer moments with her dad, action star Tony Ferrer. "I want my dad to feel obligated to ask me what my problems are. I need to know that he cares for me," she quivers. Tonton, meanwhile, wishes of dad Eddie Gutierrez: "that he and I would talk about something different for once — about life may be — all we talk about is career." Eddie Gutierrez, swinging actor of the 60s, is now husband to Annabelle Renna with whom he has six children.

Career ambitions have driven Tonton to cultivate a flair for dramatic roles. Already cited for his sensitive portrayal of a retardate opposite Vilma Santos in *Saan Nagtatag ang Puso*, Tonton's promise has been duly noted by sharp observers in the industry. He however demurs that his films to date have been "safe ones," meaning, he has been thrown in with a power-house cast, there has been no gamble involved. "It would be different if I do a solo film," he says.

Maricel, on the other hand, has had stints in comedy and drama. She has yet to claim a niche in an industry bursting at the seams with new talents and new plays everyday. But she is likewise bursting with spirit: "I'd like to try action this time. Hard action, not just as a leading lady to an action star." No feeble stuff for this daughter of filmdom's Tony "Agent X-44" Ferrer who was once an aerobics instructor, a swimmer and cross-country runner while she was living in the States.

Tonton meanwhile shares Maricel's fancy for meaty action role to avoid being typecast as sim-

gularly a drama actor 4 — something he has seen happen to the likes of Christopher de Leon. In fact, Maricel and Tonton spend more than the usual time together — filling their lives with young dreams.

"We communicate too much!" laughs Maricel.

"We see each other every three hours!" jests Tonton.

"We grew up together since our moms were friends from way back. We're crazy too and both Pisceans," adds Maricel. "Ya, she's so *makulit*!" teases Tonton.

Maricel spent five years in the States and stayed with her mom's friends in Malibu, which afforded her a comparison of cultures — and of boys especially. While at Palisades High in Malibu, she was features editor of the school newspaper and the yearbook's chief photographer. And boys would flock about this bright, bubbly Filipina. "Over there, we were friends and we just had lots of fun. Here it's a commitment. Filipino guys feel they should be in control, they think they own the world. If you're a girl, you have no say on anything!" she grunts, making sure Tonton isn't within earshot. Tonton won't even hear of a kissing scene on film for Maricel — not even with him!

Both Maricel and Tonton hope to finish their studies one day. She's a psychology major "because I like watching people, how they bring out and hide their true selves." Lucky for her, local showbiz provides the perfect backdrop for a study of the erratic and the irrational. For Tonton, a business management course would suit his ends: "Someday showbusiness for me will only be a fallback, a sideline. By then I'll be having a business of my own."

Marriage remains an idea remote to both. "Ay naku, I'm so particular about marriage," says Maricel. "When I think of it, I see myself as a housewife with total dedication to my family, a big family! 27 na masaya. But I have to make sure I'm ready for the responsibility. I wouldn't want my children to go through the pain I had when I was a child." At 19 and stepping into life's many firsts, Maricel is living it up — with friends galore. Some of them are in showbiz too — Alice Dixon and Mariz with whom she exchanges secrets care of their electronic beepers. "When my mom had me, she was only 19 or 20. That's the time a girl wants to grow and she 'grew up' too fast having me — *ang hirap noo*," she now understands why her dad and mom could never have made it together — "they're different." Maricel says, "what happened to them was something out of impulse." Imelda Ilanan is now happily married to Benjamin Q. Avancena and glowing with their new baby, while Tony Ferrer has his beauty queen, Alice Crisostomo.

Tonton' like his pretty-boy father, is fast growing to be a heartthrob among the girls. "He's being linked to everybody!" scowls Maricel. Did he really court Sharon Cuneta, and was Maricel the object of Sharon's fits of jealousy? "That was sheer publicity," dismisses Tonton.

Marriage will probably take place when he's 26, he says.

And is there anyone who fits his notion of a wife? Someone "simple, hindi maarte, hindi ma-hubo?"

"Oh, she's around the corner, standing by," he laughs, looking sideways towards....



Need we say more about this cozy pair?

The Criminal

Continued from last week

THE scream I heard was Emil's. "What's wrong Emil?" I nearly shouted. "What happened?"

"I fell you fool!" Emil shrieked. "I just fell trying to pull that door!" "But Emil," I gasped, "this door's really stuck. I can't do anything."

"Alright, alright!" he said hoarsely.

"Don't get yourself in an uproar. I'll figure something out."

"Emil, it's eleven o'clock! What if they come home?"

"I said don't worry about it!"

"Emil, don't leave me here!"

"Stop it, will you? Let me think!"

I looked wildly around the toilet for something to use against the door, but there was nothing but a deep sunken tub, a medicine cabinet, a shelf, the toilet bowl, and the usual plumbing. I was helpless. All I could do was depend on Emil's ingenious criminal mind to work me out of my predicament. I had faith, alright, but not quite enough. In other words I was in panic.

"Look," Emil said, his mouth against the door. "The only thing to do is to force the door open. I have to find some tools..."

"Maybe there's some in this apartment."

"We have no more time to look. I got some tools at my place."

"Your place? I'll take you an hour to get there and back!"

"Don't worry. I'll take a taxi."

"No!" I shouted. "Emil, please, don't leave me here..."

"It's the only thing!" he said angrily.

"Let me worry about it!"

"But what if they come home? Look for the tools here. Don't..."

"No. They won't be home until late. You know how people like them are."

I didn't, but I hoped Emil did.

"I'll be back before you know it," he said. "You just take it easy, boy. I'll get you out of there..."

"Emil!" I said once more, but there wasn't any response, and I knew he had headed for the elevator.

After he was gone, I made a few more attempts to get the toilet door open, but none of them succeeded. Then, feeling as miserable as I can remember ever feeling, I sat down on the toilet seat and put my head in my hand. I looked at my watch, and it said ten minutes past eleven. I wound it carefully to make sure it wouldn't stop on me.

The next time I looked it was eleven-thirty, and I was really getting scared. What if the Gorgonios weren't really such night owls? What if they just went to dinner, or something? Maybe they were already on their way home!

At twelve, I was sick of sitting in one position. So I got up to pace the tile floor. I opened the medicine cabinet and examined its contents, none of which were particularly interesting. I shut the cabinet's door and stared into its mirror. I didn't look well.

At twelve-thirty, I discovered what people meant when they say there're scared to the bones. I was scared to the bones. Just to do something, I went back to the mirror and made faces at myself. First I bared my teeth and enlarged my eyes like a monster. Then I pouted like a little girl. Then I gave myself the flirty, romantic look of a movie star, about to kiss the leading lady. I smacked the glass or mirror and left a round wet spot. I wiped it clean with a towel, and then opened the medicine cabinet once more! I took some after-shave lotion and slapped it on my cheeks. I would've probably powdered my face next, if I hadn't heard a sound outside that froze me still. The elevator was coming up. I turned off the light and put my ear to the door. When I heard the woman's voice, my heart started thumping until I was scared the people outside might hear it. I looked at my watch and saw it was ten minutes to one.

"Switch on the light," the woman said.

"What are you a dog that can see in the dark?"

"Alright, alright," a man's voice answered. "If you want to sit around that's okay with me. But I'm going to bed."

"Who said I want to sit around?" the woman said. "Believe me, if I ate the way you did just now, that's exactly what I'm gonna do too, go to bed."

Her voice sounded closer now, and I began to tremble. I was sure I was going to be caught. The man said something else that I couldn't hear, and then I heard footsteps, sort of muffled by the carpet. The next thing I knew, the knob on the toilet door was being rattled.

Luckily, he didn't have any more success with getting the door opened than Emil and I had had. He mumbled something, and then said, "Stupid door's stuck again. Will you talk to the lousy administrator?"

"Ah, talk to him yourself. You're the man of the house, aren't you?"

"Who has all the free time, you or me? What do you do all day anyway? And what do you think I do in the office, play games?"

"I wish I knew," the woman said, with a faint laugh. "Use the bedroom toilet. You know we got a thousand toilets and bathrooms. Why do you have to use that one? You want trouble with that door? Go ahead. Break it down."

"All I want is a good night's sleep, so shut up."

The woman did and that was all I

heard. There was a click, and I saw the light disappear from under the crack of the toilet door, and I knew they had gone to bed. Maybe I didn't make it quite clear how I listened to all this stuff. I mean, maybe you think I was just nice and calm, like sort of listening to the radio. Well, I wasn't calm at all. I was dying of fright.

When all was quiet, I tried to look at my watch in the darkness, but the lousy radium dial wasn't working anymore. I put a big bath towel over the bottom of the door and switched on the light again. It was one-thirty.

Where was Emil? I moaned silently. Two and a half hours had gone by, and he hadn't returned!

I sat down again, and began to worry about what my parents were thinking. I was often home late, and they never made any fuss. But from the way things looked, I might not be home for days.

At quarter past two, I thought I was going to crack. The room seemed smaller than ever. If there had been a book or a magazine or something to occupy me, it might not have been so unbearable. Now I know what Emil must have felt, in that jail. I was going crazy.

I went through the medicine cabinet once more, reading the labels on the bottles inside. Then I looked over the assortment of beauty potions and wished I could drink them and die.

Then I got an idea. I knew it was crazy the minute I thought of it, but I couldn't get it out of my mind. Somehow, it seemed like the only thing that would prevent me from going berserk. I decided to take a relaxing bath in that tub which I had never tried before. I wasted no time taking off my clothes. Then I filled the tub with water and like the owner of the house gingerly stepped into it.

It felt pretty good, soaking in the warm water, surrounded by all the sweet-smelling stuff I had loaded it up with.

I was just floating in the water, the suds lapping around my chin, when I heard the ringing noise outside. It was a startling sound, and I paused to hear what results it would bring.

There were soon some thumping, barefooted steps on the carpet, and then the man's voice was saying, obviously into the building telephone, "Hello, who is this?"

Whatever the caller said obviously made Mr. Gorgonio mad. He cursed and told the late caller to get lost, but then he must have gotten an argument, because he said, "Okay, okay, come up!"

The next thing I heard was the whine of the elevator. I guess Gorgonio had unlocked the downstairs door. And when I heard the voice of his visitor, I gasped aloud. It was Emil!

To Be Continued

New jewels for Presto

SPUNKY Peter Jao and cerebral Gerald Esplana stand out as probably the top bets for this season's Rookie of the Year award, all on account of their getting maximum exposure and making the most of this by churning out impressive performances.

The fact that they're playing for Presto Tivolis, one of the darkest in the tournament, and as of this writing, almost a shoo-in for the semifinal round of the PBA First Conference, definitely boosts their chances of bagging the award. A player can only win once in his PBA career. Of course, Presto wouldn't mind if one or the other makes it. In fact, Presto would be happier if both could make it as co-wardens.

The twenty other rookies who took a plunge into the pro league this year wouldn't stand a chance. Best bet could have been Catito Mejias of Pepsi or Alejandro de Guzman of Pop Cola, but unfortunately, their teams won't make the semis and they would stop earning status points. So, it looks like it's going to be a head-on duel between Jao and Esplana for Rookie honors. But if you ask both, they'd rather that Presto win a championship first and end two years of frustrations, than put their personal ambitions in the forefront.

Mahaba pa ang liga. All the other rookies are just as talented. P. kung makakapasok kami palagi sa semis o kung suwerta rin kami! makapagaro sa finals, may usansa," said Jao who like Esplana played for Sta Lucia Realty in the PABL and the National team that finished second in the 1989 SEA Games in Malaysia and eight in the Beijing ABC.

On the other hand, Esplana quipped, "I don't want to disappoint our coach, the team and management. They've been giving me all-out support. Hindi ko kailangang makipagkasipatan sa ibang players! I just want to do my job."

Curiously both started out rather suggestively perhaps, along the same line tracked by Presto which lost three of its first five games. But as the season progressed Jao and Esplana began to fit into the patterns of coach Jimmy Mariano.

It was Esplana who first shone when he issued ten assists behind Willie Generalao's 16 as Presto trounced Pepsi, 140-126. He had a fitting follow-up to this when he mocked the defenses of Robert Jaworski to score 20 points as Presto lost to Anejo, 142-135.



Gerry Esplana at home.

A woman in a man's turf

YOU'VE come to see Commissioner Domingo then," said an employee at the Commission on Immigration and Deportation Building, as she directed us to the commissioner's office on the second floor. "She should be there at exactly eight o'clock. On the dot." Sure enough, as we entered the office in the fresh morning and looked out the window, we could see the 40-year-old CID official making her way across the parking lot. Superbly clothed in a blue-green dress, she entered her office with folders and papers held across her chest just like a teen-age girl going to school. This made her appear to be only in her late 20s or early 30s.

From the information I gathered from her staff — Mely Pangilinan (IRO II) and Eva Pegollo (stenographer) — Commissioner Andrea Domingo is strict when it comes to her job. Strict on the reasonable side, that is. She is also intelligent, nice, and a hardworking public official. The lady CID head they add, is extremely good in management. This should be no surprise at all for Andrea Domingo has a lot of experience in this area.

Wanting to be a literary writer, Andrea took up and graduated in journalism but unfortunately, "martial law came in the early '70s so my writing career stopped." Veering off to a similar area, she then became an English instructor at the Philippine College of Commerce, sometimes teaching literature and journalism subjects. She also held classes at the graduate school of the De La Salle University's social studies, focusing on post-cultural analysis and communication.

Andrea Domingo learned the ins-and-outs of management by working at the Development Academy of the Philippines. There, she was acquainted with systems analysis, management and organizational development. After four years, she joined Dianetics — one of the biggest semi-conductor assembly companies in the world. "At that time, I think it was either the second or third largest worldwide."

Andrea considers Dianetics her very first step to professional management. "We had to deal with a lot of foreigners. Fortunately, the owners of the company

were very keen on knowing the latest in management and organizational development." As part of the corporate planning group and director of the manpower development division, Andrea was able to travel a lot and attend effective communication seminars practically around the globe.

As a sort of globe trotter then, Andrea started collecting antiques from the four corners of the world. Today, the CID head has Galleria Andrea, her own art gallery and antique shop in Intramuros. Her office at the CID is one concrete evidence of her love for antiques: paintings of the much-acclaimed Toltino, priceless china and several other collectibles. One thing for sure, Andrea Domingo has impeccable taste.

Galleria Andrea's history is pretty much a brief one. Five years ago, Andrea decided to retire by putting up her own business. "And I did. But even at that time, I had several consultancies going on. But being a lover of antiques is an exhilarating thing."

Prior to the CID, Andrea has worked for Senator Bobby Tan (then the Customs Commissioner) as his technical consultant in the Bureau of Customs and in the Presidential Committee of Public Ethics and Accountability. 1988 was a big year for her when she became CID's head technical assistant to then Commissioner Miriam Defensor-Santiago. Moving up the so-called "chain of command" was pretty quick for her. It took her quite a short time to become the acting associate commissioner. On December 22, 1989, Andrea Domingo was finally appointed as the commissioner of the CID.

Andrea describes her position as a painstaking but challenging job. "Being the CID commissioner takes up ten to twelve hours of my time daily, at the minimum. But I try to meet the challenge by working real hard, doing the best I can — giving it my best shot."

The seventh CID commissioner since 1986, Andrea Domingo is the youngest to hold the post ever. And somehow, the men who held the office years ago such as Enrique Joaquin and Bienvenido Alano Jr. gave citizens the impression that the position is a man's turf. Before Andrea, Miriam Defensor-San-

'Basically, I think every public office is a man's turf,' the commissioner says. 'But in this modern world, we have professional areas.'



tiago became the darling of the press by making it a woman's turf. And that's exactly what Andrea is doing presently.

Basically, I think every public office is a man's turf," the commissioner says. "But in this modern world, we have professional areas. And professional means it doesn't matter if you're a man or a woman, that is if you can do the job. For me, as long as an individual is qualified for a public office, let that person hold it. The gender is irrelevant."

But does Andrea get intimidated by egoistic males whom she encounter in her job?

"Well, I don't get intimidated," she confidently replies. "I get angry. You see, I'm directly handling the CID's Intelligence Division. Now, this is the full of the male macho types. So far, I think I have impressed upon them that I am the commissioner and I do make the decision."

Being tactful is one of Andrea's admirable traits. She says that there is a way of asserting yourself without really getting emotionally involved with the job.

"I think this is one of the basic skills a good manager or leader must have," stresses Andrea. "It doesn't matter if you are dealing with men or women. The thing is you get it done through them. These macho types are the most difficult persons to manage because you can never predict what they will do."

No matter what negative status the CID has been somewhat known for in the past, Andrea truly believes that this department's image has improved a lot.

"In fact, one of our key result areas is the improvement of the CID's image to the public," reveals the lady commissioner. "We cannot totally erase four decades of bad impression but we are trying very hard."

For the Year of the Horse, the CID has numerous goals lined up for achievement. One is their computerization programme. "We hope to computerize 30 per cent of our operations. Particularly the airport, the arrivals and departures records. We hope to accomplish this by June of this year. We now have the basic equipment to do that."

In order for the CID to catch up with the fast-paced world today, Andrea has faith in the fact that the department has to be high-tech in some ways. "It has to go that way because I think we're the only Asian country that hasn't — at least part of our operations — been computerized."

Incidentally, Andrea Domingo was more than willing to point out and describe some of the basic functions of the CID. Here are some of them:

"One is to admit aliens who are desirable and admissible. These are the legitimate tourists, investors, even cultural exchange and professional and technical foreigners who will work here and be able to share with our people their knowledge, expertise and skills."

"Two is to inform all aliens who are here of their rights and privileges and of the immigration's rules and regulations. This way, they do not go beyond the law."

"Three is to exclude all undesirable aliens, all illegal-staying aliens from the country to protect our people from whatever deprivation that might occur."

From the provinces

LORETO, Agusan del Sur — Municipal and barangay officials led by Mayor Asuero Irsari and forest concessionaires have forged an alliance in the fight against illegal tree cutters.

Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) Conador C. Mantilla, who met with barangay officials, reported the formation of the alliance.

Officials of barangays and towns with reforestation contracts have complained that planted tree seedlings and bamboos were destroyed by the illegal tree cutters, particularly those employing "carabao logging," Mantilla said.

Holders of timber licenses have complained of the same problem, he said.

In an effort to stop the activities of illegal loggers, the forest concessionaires and municipal and barangay officials have agreed to arrest and file charges against violators of forestry laws, rules and regulations, Mantilla added.

Enforcement of the agreement will start as soon as the rules are finalized by the CENRO office headed by Mantilla, Mayor Irsari said.

GENERAL TRIAS, Cavite — A two-kilometer road in barangay Pinagipunan here which was named after a Japanese town will be opened to traffic today by municipal officials led by Mayor Teofilo Grepio and a four-man Japanese delegation headed by Mayor Terasu Tanaka of Tozawa Mura, Yamagata, Japan.

The road, according to Mayor Grepio, was constructed as a symbol of long-lasting friendship between the people of General Trias and Tozawa Mura which forged a sisterhood pact.

The opening and unveiling of the marker of Tozawa Mura road is part of the programme of the 270th anniversary celebration of this historical town which was named after Gen. Mariano Trias, a famous Filipino hero.

Guest of honors during the occasion are Cavite Gov. Johnny Remulla, Rep. Renato P. Dragon, Dr. Serafin Quizon of the National Historical Institute, businessman-civil leader Alexander Tan, Rotary 381 Gov. Herman Camboza, and Rotarians Oskio de Venecia, Tony Rufino and Gerry Geronimo.

In recommending Montano's appointment as PNP director-general, the PNPA said Montano's "unquestionable loyalty has been proved in previous attempted coups against the government, wherein he kept disgruntled officers and men of the PC-IPNP under control — a manifestation of his magnificent leadership."

The PNPA letter said Montano "whose integrity, competence, and loyalty as guardian of peace and order, has continually been untarnished throughout his military career, can unite all segments of the PV and INP."

The PNPA letter to the President said: "We fervently hope that this appeal will find merit and consideration, in the interest of our country's peace and order, for there can be no progress unless there is peace, and this can be attained with the early passage of the PNP bill."

The letter to the President was signed by Col Vicente G. Vinarao, PNPA superintendent; Col Geronimo M. Bagasican, assistant superintendent; P. Maj. Ernesto C. Yasis, commandant; and Maj. Jose T. Pring, assistant commandant.

Twenty-nine PNPA staff officers, 33 INP officers taking the senior executive course, 54 INP officers taking advance course, 80 INP officers taking the basic course, 91 cadets of Class 1990, and 111 cadets of Class 1991 signed the letter.

LAOAG CITY: Lieut Col Jose Dalumpines is the new constabulary Commander and police superintendent of Ilocos Norte.

He replaced Col Patrick Madayag. Before his appointment, Dalumpines served at the regional command in La Union and was former provincial commander in Quirino province.

In the absence of Madayag, assistant provincial commander Maj. Roger Jaramilla acted in his behalf during the turnover rites.

In their remarks, Recon chief Brig. Gen. Miguel Abaya and Gov. Rodolfo Farinas asked Dalumpines and his men to uphold civilian supremacy over the military.

Dalumpines vowed to minimize insurgency in the province. He is the fourth PC-INP head in Ilocos Norte in the past two years of Farinas' incumbency.

on graft and corruption.

He said the new police force, called "Oklahoma Boys," underwent rigid training on airport security at the Transportation Safety Institute in Oklahoma, USA.

They are still young and very idealistic," Carrascosa said, adding that "they were even cited by the US government for topping their class."

Earlier, Carrascosa pulled out all policemen suspected of conniving with illegal vendors, taxi drivers, and fixers and replaced them with Marines. He said the "Oklahoma Boys" arrived after a three-month training on airport security operation in Oklahoma on a grant from the US embassy here and the guardsman course under British instructors from Bailbrook College in London.

BAGUIO CITY: "Jueteng," the "poor man's number game," is back in this city and some towns in Benguet.

Reliable sources said the "jueteng" dens are protected by some military men reportedly receiving "long" from gambling lords.

However, Maj. Gen. Ramon Montano, PC-INP chief, had earlier ordered a crackdown on jueteng and other illegal gambling activities and reprimanded many PC commanders for their alleged gambling links.

Leaders of various groups urged executive secretary Cataloo Macasag, Jr. and Fernando Carrascosa Jr., PCSO chief, to stop "jueteng" here and in Benguet, with Montano's help.

MANILA: Sen. Alberto Romulo said many serious questions remain in the air about the government's ability to bring to justice "certain powerful groups" who make a mockery of the people to believe double standard in the justice system exists — one for the powerful and another for the weak.

Addressing members of the National Prosecutors' League of the Philippines at their annual convention in Cebu City, Romulo challenged the "barracudas," naming six categories of "big fish" who have not been brought to justice.

These are the human rights violators, coup and rebellion plotters, drug lords, gun-smuggling syndicates, economic saboteurs, and grafters and corrupt officials, he said.

The senator said there are still many military officers who have not been "touched" despite public discussions of their alleged human rights abuses, especially during the martial law era.

"Some of them even have the gall to present themselves as reformists," he said.

In drug cases, he said, no "big fish" has yet been arrested although reports are persistent that several powerful drug lords have the protection of influential officials.

The senator also cited the P200-billion "crony and belt-loans" assumed by the government at the expense of taxpayers, pointing out that none of the erring officials responsible for these loans have been prosecuted, much less placed behind bars.

On coup and rebellion cases, Romulo stressed there is need to send a clear and strong signal to both the military rebels and their civilian financiers and plotters that the government will not tolerate violence and armed assaults by imposing the harshest punishment on the rebels and the coup plotters.

He also noted that no "big fish" have been caught in connection with gun-smuggling and gun-running despite reports of flourishing syndicate activities here and abroad.

Romulo likewise expressed dismay over graft and corruption cases, saying that so far none of the offenders have been included among the hundreds of convictions in the Sandiganbayan.

Meanwhile, he said, the people continue to wait and watch.

He underscored the critical role of prosecutors in the criminal justice system if the faith in the government and the democratic process is to endure.

In return, he called for a better retirement plan for the prosecution service to improve the economic status of the prosecutors, saying government prosecutors as one of the five pillars of the criminal justice system deserve to receive the benefits enjoyed by members of the judiciary.

Fewer labour strikes noted by Dole

By E.T. Suarez

THE Department of Labour and Employment (Dole) reported yesterday that the number of strikes during the first three months of 1990 went down by almost 50 per cent, indicating that the labour front will be peaceful for the rest of the year.

Labour Secretary Ruben D. Torres said that since January this year, there were only 43 strikes declared in eight regions of the country. The other regions did not have any strike, he said.

Torres, who received a report on the strike situation from Administrator Bienvenido Laguesma of the National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB), said the new strikes occurred in Metro Manila (NCR), Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Bicol, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Davao and Cotabato.

The NCMB report added that for the first two weeks of March, a 40 per cent disposition rate and 35 per cent settlement rate were attained, higher than last year's figure of 22 per cent disposition rate and 18.5 per cent settlement rate.

"Notices of strikes and lockouts filed in the first half of March decreased by 21 per cent, from 76 a year ago to 60 this year," Laguesma said.

Best of the Philippines

The gloss and flaws

Question: What brand is a coffee-table book?
Answer: A book. Usually comes in a large hulk.
Question: What goes with a coffee-table book?
Answer: Pictures galore, all picturesque — from food to faces onto sights. And of course, a sprinkling of text.

Question: What purpose does a coffee-table book serve?
Answer: To lace a table. Colour a drab nook. And call attention to the wealth of the publishers, as well as of the owner of the book, using as gauge the book's hard cover and glossy appeal.

The publication of any coffee-table book could be a very long, tedious and expensive undertaking. Nevermind for the rich publishers, such a book sells! Paid advertisements more than offset publication cost, while merchandising it will automatically write-off publication expenses. The latter becomes a reality in the must-huy lists of hotels and tourism-related companies who later on display the huy for the illustrious patrons. For their part, bangers on or habitues of such places consider the book no reading matter — only a compilation of colours and photographs laid out in a bound of glossy paper which one needs to leaf through in order to fight boredom while waiting for some appointed time.

A most recent addition to the files of coffee-table books is BEST of the Philippines, published in 1989 by Almadine, Garnet & Sorrel Inc. and edited by film critic Justino M. Dormiendo.

One glance at the table of contents promises nothing different from the usual coffee-table conversation topics by hotel lobby habitués: who's who in so and so field, places to go, things to see. So flip you go through the pages and feast your eyes with coloured photos. Once in a while, you momentarily stop to read a caption of a familiar face, an interesting photographic composition, or an irresistible advertisement of a jewelry piece, perfume or a made-up face.

For the text which is usually short, you only read those which are written about something that caught your fancy, and you merely read the first paragraph, speedread the succeeding ones until you reach the last. If time permits, you read the next text of another article, appreciating only what it says about your point of interest, but seldom about its literary prose.

BEST of the Philippines editor makes a significant introduction: that the book is "for and about Filipinos" and that it "offers a composite profile of a people pieced together from portraits of men and women whose achievements are a testament to the best that their country can offer." A respected line-up of subjects are hardly the only field that have produced the best of such a national profile. Instead, he merely qualified that the choice of subjects was limited by time and space constraints.

The lineup of fields such as visual arts, fashion design, performing arts, movies, interior design, sports, and photography only speak of a small portion of the national profile. Achievers in these fields are indeed laudable, but more also deserve to be recognized, if only to underscore the latent brilliance of our race. For example, literature has produced outstanding figures, as in law, science, medicine, and education. What this only proves is that the best of the Philippines shortfalls the true worth of its products. It can not simply be in the context of tourism that things like this are taken for granted.

Nevermind. Let us read the book. Mr. Dormiendo dominates the by-lined texts, probably because he is the editor or it might be that such is the contracted professional package. No complaint here. In style that is short and simple, the book is easy to read. What else could one expect? Coffee-table books are after all light and easy on the mind, as the eyes should have been exceedingly pleased with the splendour of coloured photographs. In other words, it is more truthful to say that the book's visuals are enough for one's reading fare. The text is merely a layout requirement.

But layout for BEST of the Philippines is pitiful, succumbing to the pitfalls of consumerism.

Ads, although equally colourful, clutter the mind as well as the eye. There is simply too many ads in this coffee-table book, one mistakes it as either a thick version of "Panorama" or a glossy counterpart of Fookien Time. Spread out in signatures, the layout elements appear to be a circus with the dominant display of ads. Not content with page-size ads, running altogether the classy image that the book obviously strives to project. As a result, the effect is distracting (if not confusing). The aftertaste is therefore bad. Certainly, there could be a compromise with the advertisers in terms of exposure — either in direct acknowledgment or in a better layout concept.

Going over the arrangement of contents once more, one gets the feeling that the publishers of the book have yet to decide whether to stick to the editor's claim that the book is about a collective achievement by people outstanding enough to be featured in this endeavour. Otherwise, the sections on shopping, jewelry, exotic destinations, and night life should have been put together in one single section, and not spread out as section dividers towards the end of the book. It gives one the impression that such concerns are just afterthoughts which were rushed to the printing press.

Well, the publishers justify early in the book: they are just starting, and the excitement of the brainstorming has not yet gotten over with. Not with the paper napkin that was used for the book's initial sketches.

Which makes us wonder whether they could use something more solid as drawing board next time they keep true their word of an annual publication of a coffee-table book.

Cristina Dionaldo

NO ONE can blame twenty-one-year-old Cristina Dionaldo for being so ambitious. Her belief that "success comes only to those who dare" is what she actually lives by in a world that has so much to offer.

Cristina's charming smile and 5'8" height opened doors to a modelling career when she just had her debut, and it made her face familiar on the ramp, and TV and print commercials. She is best seen in the Philippine in a travel magazine promoting the country's best beaches, not to mention countless other ads.

Cristina can also be credited for being Ateneo's most charming over-all muse in

1987 in a field of 55 other contestants. In 1988, she was one of the finalists of the Look of the Year, an international model search.

It is no surprise to discover her sports and musical inclinations, for our cover girl enjoys basketball, swimming and running. Besides playing the piano, she can beat the drums well enough to make anyone enjoy the rhythm.

Things does not stop here. "Aside from part-time modelling," says Ms. Dionaldo, "I also sell imported cars and real estate." And to think she's still in her third year majoring in mass communications at Maryknoll College.

Says Cristina of her future plans. "After college, I would want to put up a business of

my own, either in jewelry, cars or real estate. I would also want to try my hand on stock market. Although these are but dreams, I know, with enough perseverance, I can achieve them."

One of her goals is to help the country. "I would like to educate the poor, maybe in terms of scholarships. I would also like to improve the state of the Manila Zoo for I feel great pity for the animals."

These maybe mere dreams but there's no harm in projecting what one plans and knowing that someday, with the right foot forward, one just might succeed. With Cristina, the chances look a lot bigger.



MANILA: President Corason Aquino was urged recently to push the immediate passage of the Philippine National Police (PNP) bill and appoint Maj. Gen. Ramon E. Montano, PC-INP chief, as PNP director-general.

The request was made by the officers and staff of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA), the PC-INP senior and junior officers undergoing training at the PNPA and the Corps of Cadets of Classes 1990-91, representing various regions of the country.

In a letter to the President, the PNPA said the "early passage of the PNP bill will serve as a deterrent to destabilisation attempts against the government and will help ease the discrimination between the PC and the INP, which will be merged into a cohesive organisation that can adequately cope with the demands of the times."

MANILA: Defence Secretary Fidel V. Ramos proposed joint use of Clark and Subic bases by US and Philippine military forces to reduce the maintenance cost and step up the use of the facilities.

Speaking at the 11th anniversary of the turnover of Clark Air Base to the Philippine government, Ramos said his proposal is "merely transitional into the eventual and efficient use of the facilities by Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) units."

However, he said the decision to extend the use of the bases by US forces "is best left to the authorities assigned to work out way of negotiations and arrangements that must be followed."

NINYO AQUINO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT: Eduardo Carrascosa, airport general manager, said 80 specially trained policemen were deployed to crack down

MARKET PLACE

A black and white illustration of an elephant standing next to a large sign. The sign is shaped like a banner with a decorative border and a fringe at the bottom. The text on the sign reads "JUMBO SALE" in large, bold, slanted letters, followed by "Each day in the classified pages of the Arab Times" in a smaller, serif font. The elephant is standing on the left side of the sign, facing left. The entire illustration is set against a background of a newspaper page with visible text and columns. At the bottom of the page, there is a large, bold, sans-serif headline that reads "ARAB TIMES NEWS IS OUR BUSINESS".

SPORTS BRIEFS

Barcelona GP

BARCELONA, Spain, April 14. (Reuters) Jay Berger and Martin Jaitie, the top two seeds in the Barcelona Tennis Grand Prix, were both knocked out in yesterday's quarter-finals. Number one seed Berger of the United States was beaten 6-2 6-4 by seventh seed Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union while second-seeded Argentine Jaitie lost 6-4 6-4 to 10th-seeded compatriot Guillermo Perez Roldan.

Stanley Cup

NEW YORK, April 14. (Reuters) Results of first-round National Hockey League Stanley Cup playoff games yesterday: Adams Division — Boston Bruins 3, Hartford Whalers 2; (Bruins lead best-of-seven series 3-2); Montreal Canadiens 4, Buffalo Sabres 2; (Canadiens lead best-of-seven series 3-2); Patrick Division — Washington Capitals 4, New Jersey Devils 3; (Capitals lead best-of-seven series 3-2); New York Rangers 6, New York Islanders 5; (Rangers win best-of-seven series 4-1).

European body

GOTHENBURG, Sweden, April 14. (Reuters) Israel, excluded from the Asian Table Tennis Union, were admitted to the European body instead yesterday.

Cup projects

ROME, April 14. (Reuters) Dozens of new car parks, road improvements and public transport projects will not be ready in time for the World Cup soccer finals in June, Italy's Urban Affairs Minister, Carmelo Conte said in a report.

Real midfielder

MADRID, April 14. (Reuters) Unsuspected Real Madrid star midfielder Martin Vazquez, whose contract ends in June, confirmed yesterday he was talking with clubs outside Spain.

Two-way tie

HILTON HEAD, S.C., April 14. (Reuters) Calvin Peete returned to the limelight yesterday as he closed strong to gain a share of the second-round lead with Steve Pate in the \$1 million Heritage Golf Classic.

Cup tickets

LONDON, April 14. (Kuna) The refusal by FIFA, the governing body for world football, to allocate more World Cup tickets to England means only 10,000 fans will make it to Sardinia for the first-phase matches. It was reported here yesterday.

Kramer sentenced

MIAMI, Florida, April 14. (AP) A former champion racehorse driver was sentenced yesterday to 10 years and five months in federal prison for attempting a dramatic helicopter escape from a federal prison. Benjamin "Barry" Kramer, 34, will serve the sentence consecutive with a life term stemming from a drug smuggling conviction in Illinois in 1986, said US District Court Judge James Kehoe.

Coach sacked

BONN, April 14. (UPI) West German First Division soccer club FC Homburg sacked coach Sepp Stabel on Thursday night after a 1-0 defeat in a Bundesliga match against FC Cologne.

Soviet trainer

VIENNA, April 14. (UPI) Soviet ice hockey trainer Valentin Gusev has signed a three-year contract to coach Austrian First Division side WEC Red Bull Salzburg.

Austrian manager

VIENNA, April 14. (UPI) Austrian national soccer team manager Josef Hickersberger said Friday he will consider extending his two-year contract, which expires later this month, provided the price is right. "What I'm getting now is just a pittance, but I believe it'll all work out," said Hickersberger, who currently gets the equivalent of a little over \$3,000 per month.

NBA Games

NEW YORK, April 14. (Reuters) Results of National Basketball Association (NBA) games played yesterday:

| | | | |
|-----------|-----|--------------|-----|
| Atlanta | 115 | Detroit | 111 |
| Minnesota | 117 | Orlando | 102 |
| Chicago | 116 | Milwaukee | 106 |
| LA Lakers | 131 | Golden State | 119 |
| Portland | 124 | Dallas | 92 |

Davis triumphs

SHEFFIELD, England, April 14. (Reuters) England's Steve Davis completed the most convincing first round World Snooker Championship victory of his career when he crushed 60-year-old Australian Eddie Charlton 10-1 yesterday.

Biasion holds on to second place

Waldegard retains Marlboro Safari Rally lead

By Jadranka Porter
in Kenya

BJORN WALDEGARD, a Swedish veteran driver confirmed his lead Friday in Kenya's Marlboro Safari Rally when he finished the second leg ahead of 24 other top international drivers.

The Swede, driving a Toyota Celica said at the end of the first sector that one cannot decide tactics on the Safari, and instead has to rely on his judgement and skills throughout the event.

His Toyota served him well as he thundered through the 600-kilometre long sector, but reigning world champion Miki Biasion's didn't do too badly either as he followed the Swede in his Lancia Delta to finish second. Italian Alex Fiorio in a Lancia was in third place while Juha Kankkunen of Finland was fourth.

Although the rally is far from over and the final result is highly unpredictable Waldegard is on target to capture the title if his car does not let him down in a contest that in the end is as much about the cars as it is about the drivers.

Sources close to the drivers said Fiorio and Kankkunen were told to go easy on their cars and the real contest might begin tomorrow when the Lancia team begin their assault. Said Fiorio after the second leg: "Everything was okay today. We will be trying to take the lead tomorrow."

As the weather unexpectedly improved, the perennial mechanical problems eclipsed complaints



Children wave to Waldegard as he drives past a Kenyan village. (Reuters wirephoto)

about rain, mud and treacherous road conditions.

Mikael Ericsson, who came in third on the first day, was slowed down by problems with shock absorbers that forced him down to the fifth place at the finish line.

Waldegard's car received new front and rear struts and inter-cooler pump while the Subaru

Legacy driven by Mike Kirkland was suffering from severe overheating problems caused by mud in the radiator.

In a rally known as the toughest in the World Championship series, Spain's Carlos Sainz made an amazing comeback after he ran out of brakes and went off a slippery road sliding off into a tree. Sainz

even managed to improve his overnight eighth position to seventh at the end of the day.

Kenya's Vic Preston driving a Nissan 200SX faced an odd problem. His right-hand drive car required a complete new steering rack and the service car sent into the section was left-hand drive.

Kenyan drivers are making a

valiant attempt to remain in the rally which is marked by drivers' do or die attitude. The Duncan Munro pair did well on Thursday but was forced to retire after reporting a misfire and loss of power.

Local rally fans now look to Patrick Njiru who may go for the position of leading Subaru on the rally after problems suffered by compatriots Jim Heather-Hayes and Kirkland.

In fact wet weather could have, and still might be an odd ally for the local drivers who may lack international experience but know their roads. But the eventual winners, whoever they may turn out to be, his skill notwithstanding, will come from a team that has a solid support system from car manufacturers.

Private competitors without generous sponsors do not stand a chance against rivals such as the Lancia team, who have a helicopter following each of their three cars plus light aircraft to monitor the cars. More important, it has a back-up crew running 19 service cars and two chase cars that match in strength and speed of the competing cars.

This gives a tremendous and some feel unfair advantage to team drivers. Guy Cousol, a private entrant from Belgium complained that if this trend continues only factory teams will be able to compete in future rallies.

Friday also saw the rally's first, if somewhat bizarre accident, resulting in injury. Frank Tundo, Kenya's former competitor now driving a chase car for Subaru was

hit by a Matusu, a public transport van, while standing by his car. He was flown to a Nairobi hospital with slight injuries. The accident happened before the cars reached the two check points in Sabu Sabu, a small town whose inhabitants turned out in force to cheer the drivers.

Those who were not lining the roads went to a nearby church to sing hymns on Good Friday. Their pure and lyrical voices rose gently over the farmland, an unexpectedly beautiful sound occasionally drowned out by the roar of the passing engines. As the drivers continued to grapple with rough roads and each other, the congregation went about its own business.

Standings

Leading standings on Friday after the second leg and 31 of the 83 special stages in the Marlboro Kenya Safari Rally:

1. Bjorn Waldegard (Sweden), Toyota Celica, two hours 28 minutes 11 seconds; 2. Massimo Biasion (Italy), Lancia Delta Integrale, 2:34:17.3; 3. Alessandro Fiorio (Italy), Lancia Delta Integrale, 2:54:14; 4. Juha Kankkunen (Finland), Lancia Delta Integrale, 2:54:23; 5. Mikael Ericsson (Sweden), Toyota Celica, 2:59:58; 6. Jim Heather-Hayes (Kenya), Subaru Legacy, 4:27:40.7; 7. Mike Kirkland (Kenya), Subaru Legacy, 4:52:37; 8. Patrick Njiru (Kenya), Subaru Legacy, 6:04:51; 9. Rudi Stohl (Austria), Audi 90 Quattro, 6:06:58; 10. Kenjiro Shinozuka (Japan), Mitsubishi Galant, 6:12:31.

Athletics outclass Mariners

SEATTLE, April 14. (AP) Rickey Henderson homered to lead off a game for the 41st time and had four hits last night as the Oakland Athletics beat Seattle 15-7 in an American League baseball game before the first home sellout in the Mariners' 14-year history.

Commissioner Fay Vincent was among the 54,874 fans who attended Seattle's Kingdome opener. The Mariners are beginning their first full season under the ownership of Jeff Smulyen, who bought the team from George Argyros late last year. A total of 58,150 tickets were sold for the game.

Even though it was the first sellout, it was only the Mariners third-largest crowd ever. The Kingdome has been reduced in size since a record 57,762 fans attended the team's opener in 1977.

Twins 7, Angels 4

Jim Dwyer tied the game with a two-run single and Gary Gaetti hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly as the Minnesota Twins rallied for five runs in the seventh inning last night and beat the California Angels 7-4.

Three errors, two by shortstop Kent Anderson, led to four unearned runs as the Twins overcame a 4-2 deficit.

Mike Witt, who on Wednesday pitched the final two innings of the no-hitter against Seattle that Mark Langston began, lost his first decision of the season. He allowed four hits and five runs in 1-2-3 innings, but only one run was earned.

Padres 6, Giants 3

Jack Clark hit a game-tying home run in the eighth inning and added an RBI single in San Diego's wild five-run ninth as the Padres beat San Francisco 6-3 last night to spoil the Giants' home opener.

Clark hit a towering shot to left field on a 3-2 pitch from reliever Dan Quisenberry (0-1) with one out in the eighth to tie the score 3-3.

The Padres, aided by two errors, took the lead in the top of the ninth. Kevin Bass' error in right field allowed two runs to score. Roberto Alomar drove in one run with a sacrifice fly and Clark drove in a run with a single.

Greg Harris (1-0) pitched 1 2/3 innings in relief for the victory.

Results

| National League | | | |
|-----------------|----|---------------|---|
| New York | 4 | Montreal | 1 |
| St. Louis | 11 | Philadelphia | 0 |
| Chicago | 3 | Pittsburgh | 0 |
| Cincinnati | 3 | Atlanta | 1 |
| Los Angeles | 6 | Houston | 1 |
| San Diego | 8 | San Francisco | 3 |
| American League | | | |
| Cleveland | 6 | Chicago | 2 |
| New York | 3 | Texas | 0 |
| Milwaukee | 9 | Boston | 6 |
| Detroit | 10 | Baltimore | 0 |
| Toronto | 3 | Kansas City | 1 |
| Oakland | 15 | Seattle | 7 |
| Minnesota | 7 | California | 4 |

Romario to be included in Cup squad

RIO DE JANEIRO, April 14. (Reuters) PSV Eindhoven's injured striker Romario will be included in Brazil's 22-man squad for the World Cup finals to be named on Monday, national coach Sebastiao Lazaroni said.

Lazaroni, who will announce his final selection six weeks ahead of the official deadline, told a press conference on Thursday he had already chosen 19 players and the remaining three would be decided over the weekend.

He said Romario, who has had two operations since he broke his right leg on March 4, would be included in the list and a replacement would be called up if he did not improve sufficiently.

Lazaroni said he would wait until the May 29 deadline before making his final decision on Romario.

He is ineligible for Brazil's opening match in the finals against Sweden on June 10 because he was sent off in a qualifier against Chile last August.

The promptness of Brazil's squad announcement for the World Cup in Italy is in stark contrast to the 1986 Mexico World Cup when coach Tele Santana named his final 22 a little over a week before the start of the competition.

Lazaroni said he was naming the squad early so the players could train "without the fear of being dropped," which, he said, created a tense atmosphere.

Brazil's training programme for the World Cup has been uncharacteristically well-planned. Training camp will start on April 23 at Teresopolis, a mountain resort 90 kms from Rio.



Romario
Brazil will play two friendlies at home, against East Germany and Bulgaria, before leaving for Spain on May 16 to play a friendly against a Madrid combination.

The Squad arrives in Italy on May 20. All hotels have already been chosen in contrast to four years ago when there were constant changes in accommodation.

But trouble is looming in the form of club commitments. Of the foreign-based players likely to be named, only Geovani (Bologna), Jorginho (Bayer Leverkusen), Aldair (Benfica), Silas (Sporting Lisbon) and Romario have contracts which obligate their clubs to release them when required by their country.

The coach has warned he wants all 22 players present on April 23 and has threatened to drop any players "if there is insufficient time for them to train properly with the squad."

Mommessin upsets Bengtsson

GOTHENBURG, Sweden, April 14. (Reuters) Former champion Ulf Bengtsson of Sweden was knocked out in the first round of the European Table Tennis Championships yesterday by Frenchman Didier Mommessin, ranked 73 places below him.

Left-hander Bengtsson, the European singles winner in 1984 but no longer a member of the Swedish team, gave Mommessin confidence when he threw away a 19-16 lead in the opening game.

Though Bengtsson, now 30 and playing less often, fought for five games, the Frenchman, ranked 123rd in the world, gained the upper hand in the deciding set 2-20 21-19 15-21 19-21 21-19.

The result was a disappointment for the home fans at the Scandinavium Arena who had to wait until today to see the current top Swedes, led by defending champion and team gold medallist Mikael Appelgren, come into the competition.

Appelgren, along with world champion Jan-Ove Waldner and the other leading men's and women's seeds, received first-round byes.

Unseeded Steffen Fetzner, in superb form when he helped West Germany to win the team silver on Wednesday, was surprised to find Hungarian Zoltan Batorfi already a tricky opponent at the age of 14.

The lanky Hungarian, younger brother of 1986 women's European champion Csilla Batorfi, led for a while in the first game but then capitulated as Fetzner, world doubles gold medallist, won 21-19 21-12 21-14.

Second seed Jorgen Persson of Sweden got the opponent he had hoped to avoid when Norway's Chinese-born Wang Yansheng won through to the second round, beating West German Juergen Rebel 21-19 21-8 21-13.

Left-handed Wang, who was to meet former champion Persson today, plays professionally in West Germany. He beat the Swede in Oslo last December.

Waldner will also face a Chinese-born opponent — Austria's Qian Qianli — in his opening match. Qian, one of a large band of Chinese who have moved to Europe, beat Portugal's Paulo Fernandes 21-10 21-12 21-14.

Former European top 12 winner Desmond Douglas, who helped England to reach third place in the team event, fell in the first round of the singles to the Soviet Union's Vladimir Vorokh in four games.

But Alan Cooke, who deposed Douglas as England number one and who could be a threat to some of the seeded players, easily reached the second round, beating Scotland's Euan Walker 21-8 21-18 21-12.

Bengtsson was later thrown out of the championships by Swedish team officials after fiercely criticising coach Glenn Osth.

Talking to reporters after his defeat, Bengtsson accused Osth of favouritism towards his top five players, who won the team gold medal on Wednesday, and said the coach refused to talk to him except through an intermediary.

Ireland leave out Stapleton

DUBLIN, April 14. (Reuters) Striker Frank Stapleton has been left out of the Ireland squad for the first time in his 13-year international career for the pre-World Cup soccer friendly against the Soviet Union in Dublin on April 25.

Stapleton, who plays for promotion-chasing Blackburn in the English Second Division, is Ireland's joint all-time leading goalscorer with 19 and is one appearance short of Liam Brady's record 71.

Republic of Ireland squad: Pat Bonner (Celtic), Gerry Peyton (Bournemouth), Chris Morris (Celtic), Steve Staunton (Liverpool), Chris Hughton (Tottenham), Mick McCarthy (Millwall), Kevin Moran (Blackburn), David O'Leary (Aston Villa), Paul McGrath (Aston Villa), Ray Houghton, Ronnie Whelan (both Liverpool), Andy Townsend (Norwich), Kevin Sheedy (Everton), Alan McLoughlin (Swindon), Tony Casarino (Aston Villa), Bernie Slaven (Middlesbrough), David Kelly (Leicester), Niall Quinn (Manchester City).

Moses eyes another Olympic gold medal



Moses: still in chase for an Olympic gold

NEW YORK, April 14. (Reuters) Twice Olympic gold medal hurdler Edwin Moses will turn 35 years of age in August but he says age is not about to slow down his chase for more gold in the 1992 Barcelona Games.

"I know I can still do it and there is no real reason to quit," Moses told Reuters during a recent promotional tour for this summer's Goodwill Games in Seattle.

After dominating the 400-metre hurdles for a decade, Moses settled for bronze at the 1988 Seoul Games and then quit racing all of last year to pursue a graduate university degree, prompting speculation that he was retiring from competition.

"People think I'm retired because of my age, but I've never really mentioned it," the American

said. "I've been in shape for 20 years and age doesn't really matter that much and that's what people forget. It's a very realistic goal for a gold (at Barcelona) if I plan my training right."

Moses resumed training in November with solitary daily workouts at the University of California at Irvine. Now concentrating on interval training before stepping up to speed drills, Moses feels no need to rush back.

"The overall philosophy is a three-year programme. This year is not major," said Moses. "Next year I'm in peak condition and the following year is the Olympic year. That is what I'm really looking forward to."

Moses won his first Olympic gold in the 1976 Montreal Games where he also set his first world

record. He added the 1984 gold medal in the Los Angeles Games and his 1983 time of 47.02 seconds still stands as the world record. Until he was beaten by compatriot Danny Harris in 1987, Moses enjoyed a streak of 122 consecutive race victories over a 10-year span.

"No matter what I do in the future, you can't take away any of my accomplishments," said Moses, who will compete in the Goodwill Games. "I've already made my mark and I could walk away anytime and be satisfied."

Ego, however, is still a motivating force.

"The challenge is running against guys who feel you are over the hill. They have always felt because of my age they were going to catch up, so the challenge is to continue to trample on these guys the way I have," said Moses.



Ibrahim Hussein and Mota: two of the favourites to win the marathon



Ikangaa hopes for Boston marathon win

BOSTON, April 14. (Reuters) Tanzania's Juma Ikangaa, Boston marathon runner-up in each of the last two years, hopes to triumph on his third attempt in the 94th running of the world's oldest marathon on Monday.

On his debut here in 1988, Ikangaa lost to Ibrahim Hussein by one second — the closest finish in the race's history — after duelling with the Kenyan for the entire 42.195-km course from suburban Hopkinton to central Boston.

Last year's late push by Ethiopia's Abebe Mekonen left Ikangaa adrift again, this time 48 seconds. But Ikangaa posted the fastest marathon time of 1989 when he set a course record and personal best of two hours eight minutes one second last November in New York and is considered favourite for Monday's race.

Pushing Hussein and Ikangaa will be former Boston champion Rob de Castella of Australia, who set the course record of 2:07:51 in 1986, and former world best holder Steve Jones of Britain, who finished fourth at the Commonwealth Games.

The star-studded field also includes Olympic champion Gelindo Bordin, fellow Italian Orlando Pizzolato, twice a New York marathon winner,

twice Boston champion Geoff Smith of Britain and World Cup holder Zeleke Metafaria of Ethiopia. The late entries of Olympic champion Ross Mota of Portugal and Soviet rival Zoya Ivanova add spice to a women's field hurt by the absence of perennial favourites Ingrid Kristiansen and Joan Benoit Samuelson.

World record holder Kristiansen is pregnant and will not defend her title. Samuelson gave birth to her second child in January.

Mota, whose back problems interrupted her career a year ago, was at the top of the marathon world in 1987 and 1988 when she won the Rome World Championship, the Seoul Olympics and back-to-back Boston victories.

Ivanova, runner-up at the 1987 world championships, ended Mota's streak of major wins with a 45-second victory over the Olympic champion in Los Angeles last year.

Their toughest competition is expected to come from American Kim Jones, who finished third in Boston and second in New York last year, and Britain's Veronica Marot, the 1989 London winner who beat Jones in Houston this year. The winners will each earn \$50,000.

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SPORTS

England face prospect of another bouncer barrage in final cricket Test

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, April 14, (Reuters): England face the daunting prospect of another bouncer barrage from West Indies' fast bowlers with the new ball soon after play resumed in the fifth and final cricket Test following yesterday's rest day.

England's chances of building a big match-winning first innings today were in the hands of wicketkeeper Jack Russell and young Nasser Hussain.

Russell came close to being England's saviour in the fourth Test when he defied West Indies' bowlers for more than five hours, scoring 55, before his dismissal sparked a collapse.

It was the new ball in the hands of Curtly Ambrose that brought the downfall of Russell and England on the final day of the Barbados Test three days ago and earned the West Indians their 164-run series-tying victory.

West Indies skipper Viv Richards will probably toss the new ball to Ambrose in the third

over of the second day in the hope he can reproduce the devastating burst that brought him four wickets in four overs on Tuesday.

Hussain has shown little sign of being able to handle the West Indies fast bowling in his three previous Test innings in which he has scored a total of 31 runs.

Without middle order stalwart Robin Smith, who defied the

bowlers on the final day of the fourth Test to remain unbeaten on 40, England's hopes of reaching 300 look bleak.

The three remaining batsmen: Phillip DeFreitas, Gladstone Small and Devon Malcolm, scored 41 between them in two innings of the fourth Test and were all victims of Ambrose's

second innings figures of eight for 45.

The St John's wicket, which was bouncy and quick early on, is expected to become an even better batting track, losing both pace and life by the time West Indies bat and could be ideal for Gordon Greenidge to attempt to become the third batsman to score a century in his 100th Test.

Colin Cowdrey was the first to achieve the feat for England in 1968 against Australia and Pakistan's Javed Miandad emulated him against India in December.

The short straight boundaries at the recreation ground just Greenidge, as he showed when hitting eight sixes in a one-day international against India last year.

Trevino and Player move to the front

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida, April 14, (AP): The leaderboard at the 51st PGA Senior's Championship turned upside-down yesterday, as Lee Trevino and Gary Player moved to the front and Jack Nicklaus took an astounding plunge.

From an opening-round 68 and a three-stroke lead, Nicklaus shot an abysmal 78 — including four double bogeys — and ended up three strokes behind the leaders after the second round of the tournament.

"I found out I was human after all," Nicklaus said, referring to the near super-human qualities being ascribed to him by his fellow pros.

The worst news is that somebody else might find out, too," he added.

Before Nicklaus made his embarrassing slide late in the afternoon, Player shot an early 69 and moved into a share of the lead at 143. He was tied at that figure with fellow South African Harold Henning, who also had a 69 in the strong, gusty winds.

Trevino, who said he was out of it and had no chance of overtaking Nicklaus after an opening-round 77, refused his own statement with a 5-under-par 67 that left him one shot off the pace at the tournament's halfway point.

Graf edges Bassett

Sanchez holds off Kelesi

AMELIA ISLAND, Fla., April 14, (Reuters): Top-ranked Steffi Graf of West Germany passed her toughest test since returning from injury by defeating Canadian Carling Bassett-Seguso 6-4 yesterday in the quarterfinals of the \$350,000 Amelia Island Women's Open.

Graf, who beat her first two opponents here in a combined 85 minutes, needed 90 minutes to beat Bassett-Seguso, who made her best tournament showing in four years.

The win moved Graf into today's semifinals, where she will meet fifth-seeded Soviet Natalia Zvereva, a 6-1 6-7 7-6 (7-4) winner over fourth-seeded American Zina Garrison.

The other semifinal was to have second seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina against number three Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain. Sabatini eased past 10th seed Isabel Cueto of West Germany 6-3 6-2, while Sanchez Vicario held off sixth-seeded Canadian Helen Kelesi of Canada 7-5 6-4.

Graf, just back after missing two months with a broken thumb, was unhappy with her play against Bassett-Seguso, who dictated the tempo with her



Sanchez returns the ball to Kelesi. (Reuters wirephoto)

methodical, baseline style.

"I'm not supposed to have such a tough time," said Graf, who stretched her match winning streak to 55. "I thought I played pretty bad. I was not patient at all."

"But I think Carling played

really well. She played smart and did all the right things. It's just frustrating because you know you can play so much better. I'm angry. But sometimes, you just have to laugh about it and forget it."

Bassett-Seguso, who last won

three matches in a tournament at the 1986 French Open, where she reached the quarterfinals, said her game plan worked perfectly but she could not take advantages of enough chances.

"The last time we played, I went out and hit with her," said Bassett, describing a 6-0 6-0 loss to Graf last year. "That was a no-no. I just went out there, took my time and tried to avoid mistakes."

"Every time someone loses to Graf, they come in the locker room and say, 'Gosh, she plays so fast. I'm going to play slower next time.' But they never do. I've only seen Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova able to dictate the pace against Steffi. To have a chance, I think that's what you need to do."

Bassett pulled even at 4-all in the first set by breaking Graf's serve at love. Just as quickly, though, Graf broke back at love, then serve out the set.

Bassett missed a prime opportunity in the second set when, trailing 4-3, she held two break points against Graf. But Graf ran her around with powerful forehands and held for 5-3.

Bassett-Seguso held for 5-4, then got to break point again in the 10th game.



Graf in action against Bassett. (Reuters wirephoto)

Lendl eliminated

TOKYO, April 14, (Reuters): Aaron Krickstein recorded wins over world number one Ivan Lendl and French Open champion Michael Chang on a triumphant day at the Japan Open tennis championships today.

Krickstein defeated top seed Lendl 6-3 5-7 6-4 for the first time in the semifinals after earlier beating Chang 7-6 (7-2) 6-1.

The quarterfinal had been suspended yesterday because of rain with Krickstein 1-0 up in the second set.

He did not drop a game today to rout Chang and set up a semifinal clash with Lendl just three hours later.

The 22-year-old American, who led the US Davis Cup team to a second-round victory over Czechoslovakia two weeks ago, made no contest of the first set.

Lendl raised his game in the second set, serving seven aces, but made a series of unforced errors in the decider, giving Krickstein his first win in six matches against the Czechoslovak.

Krickstein, who missed last week's Orlando Classic because of a pulled hamstring, said: "I think I have improved my serve over the last few weeks. I knew if I served well here I had a chance to win."

Lendl said: "I wasn't happy with my game, but he played very well and he served extremely well. I made a lot of errors and when I had the chances I just threw them away."

"I am basically looking forward to the grass and getting ready for Wimbledon."

Defending champion and second seed Stefan Edberg of Sweden got his serve-and-volley game working smoothly to defeat American third seed Brad Gilbert 6-1 7-6 (7-5).

Edberg said he anticipated a tough final against Krickstein. "He has won some tight ones," Edberg said. "He is one of the toughest players because he is so quick and hits a lot of balls back."

The women's final will be contested between top seed Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden and sixth-seeded Australian Elizabeth Smylie.

Lindqvist beat Czechoslovak Eva Sviglerova 6-1 6-2, while Smylie defeated Japan's Naoko Sawamatsu by the same scoreline.

Sumo ban on women challenged

TOKYO, April 14, (AP): Saying sumo has no place in Japan's national sport, a women's rights group has squared off with the Japan Sumo Association over a centuries-old rule banning women from the sumo ring.

The women's action group isn't seeking the right for women to wrestle the sumo's giant grapplers, but just to present a "women's flag" in the ring, simple as that.

"Incineration held in the ring for tournament winners, said member Michio Inoue.

"To the sumo association, however, women just don't belong in the ring."

"I don't know why, it's just been that way since long ago," said an association official, who refused to be further identified. "It's always been against the rules for women to get into the ring, simple as that."

Inoue said her group of 500 members, mostly women, decided against calling flatly for the rule's abolition because they were afraid public sentiment could go against them.

"I think it is a kind of miniature of Japanese society in general, but many people in Japan accept sumo as a man's world, as a special society of its own," Inoue said. "In the end, though, I hope the rule will be abolished."

The ban on women is believed to come from beliefs in Shinto, Japan's native religion, that treat women as impure.

KPBL holds prize distribution ceremony

THE KPBL (Kuwait Pinoy Basketball League), recently held its awards night of its 1st-Confederation basketball tournament at the Mahuhay Restaurant.

The dinner buffet prize thanksgiving was held in honour of those participants who helped in the satisfactory staging of the games.

The event was attended by the Filipino community's basketball enthusiasts which included among others, Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait, Dr. Maurya M. Tamayo, Dr. Dauday A. Tago-Min, Coun. and Consul-General, Bert Marin, Labour Attache, Taha Guinomia, and other Philippine embassy staff.

During the ceremonies, KPBL commissioner Ed Mateo said that the organisation will continue with its activities which will always be directed towards the Filipino community. He added that the 2nd-Confederation tournament will be more exciting and better than the first.

The KPBL secretary-general, Guillermo Ham Limdimas thanked all those people who made the tournament possible. He added that the KPBL will do its best to improve in its forthcoming activities.

Special plaques of appreciation were presented to the Philippine ambassador, the minister counsellor-consul general of the Philippine embassy.

The ambassador said that he was very pleased with the results of the KPBL 1st-Confederation tournament. He praised the KPBL vs EEI finals and congratulated both teams on a magnificent showing. The ambassador



KPBC's Dela Cruz and Abdullah Tiffouni receive the champion's trophy.



EEI's Lligo receiving the runners-up trophy from the Philippine ambassador.



Tiffouni announces a donation for Branzuela.

added that he and the entire Philippine embassy staff would help in every way possible for the success of the KPBL. He added that the KPBL, if it continues on the right path, can be part of the formation of a Filipino-Kuwaiti Friendship Society which can play hosts to Kuwaitis when they are in the Philippines and vice-versa.

The ambassador then assisted the KPBL commissioner, Ed Mateo in awarding the trophies and medals to the winners. They were joined by Trico Int'l's director, Don Jayantha Mangangara who stressed that he and his company will always be behind KPBL and its projects.

Noticeably present during the night was KHC-Bayan team manager, David Brooks who said that as an "Englishman" he is never uncomfortable with the



KPBL dancers provide intermission numbers.

Filipinos. He added that he hopes that the KPBL will at once start its 2nd-Confederation

tourney as he and his boys are left idle and had nothing to do on Fridays.



Trico director Don J. Kannangara receives the 2nd runners-up trophy.



Mr X-Ortega is presented with the trophy for 3rd runner-up.



Mythical-5 (from left): Mr X, Manuel (for Castro), Zalavaria, Philippine ambassador, Dela Cruz, Garcia and Trico's Don.

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